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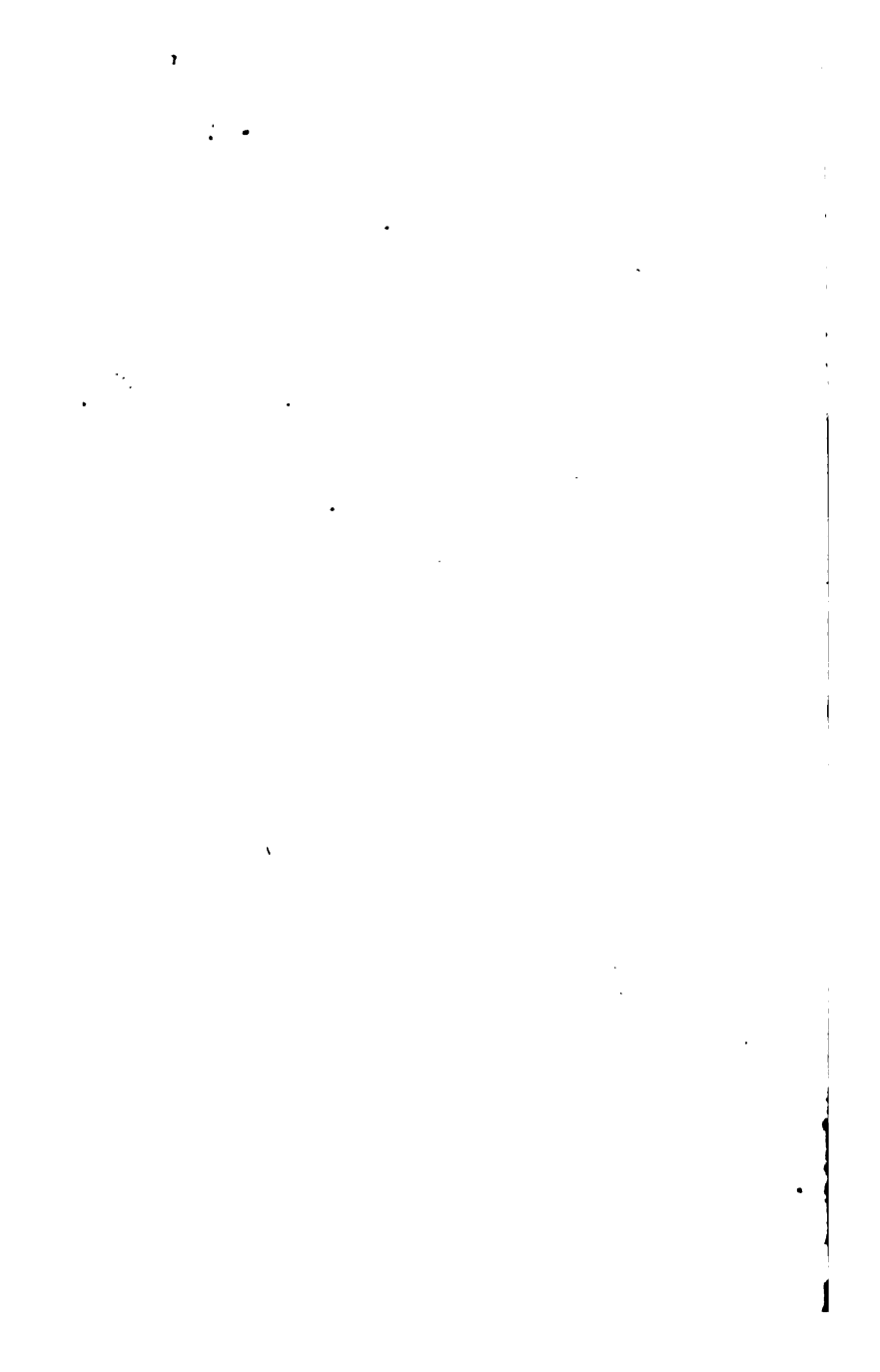
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THE STEEPLECHASE

HOW TO BUY A HORSE;

CONTAINING

Instructions for the Choice or Rejection of a Horse from his
SHAPE, APPEARANCE, ACTION, SOUNDNESS, OR DEFECTS;

An exposition of the Tricks frequently practised

IN THE SALE OF

UN SOUND HORSES,

AND

Practical Directions for the Improvement and Maintenance of

CONDITION

BY

FEEDING, STABLE-MANAGEMENT, EXERCISE, ETC.

To which are added

OBSERVATIONS ON THE FIRST TREATMENT OF
SOME INJURIES AND DISEASES

TO WHICH THE HORSE IS SUBJECT;

The whole Illustrated by

WOOD-CUTS

SHOWING THE SITUATION AND NATURE OF SEVERAL
DEFECTS AND DISEASES

COMMONLY FOUND IN UNSOUND HORSES.

LONDON:

SHERWOOD, GILBERT, AND PIPER,

PATERNOSTER ROW.

1840.

Steenbock Memorial Library
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550 Babcock Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1293

MARCHANT, PRINTER, INGRAM-COURT, FENCHURCH-STREET.

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1840

AVG 6989

P R E F A C E.

THE numerous frauds that are daily practised with success upon purchasers of horses render it a matter of absolute necessity that the public should be put upon their guard against the usual tricks of the lower class of horse-dealers and their coadjutors. This work has therefore been written with a view not only to expose most of the impositions and devices in common use among these gentry, but also to enable every one who wishes to become master of a horse to judge for himself of his soundness and capabilities without much risk of being deceived.

A great portion of the following pages has already appeared in a series of papers in the "Sporting Magazine;" and the fact that several applications have, at various times, been made to

the Editor of that periodical, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they would not be published as a distinct work, and also of their having been deemed worthy of a reprint in an American Sporting Paper, has induced the Author to unite them in a separate volume.

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ERRATA.

Page 25, line 9, for "remarkable showy," read "remarkably showy."

„ 171, for "Chapter X." read "Chapter IX."

HOW TO BUY A HORSE.

CHAPTER I.

THERE is probably no subject of more exciting interest to an Englishman than that which treats of anything pertaining to the horse. In this country you will meet but very few men who are not, in a greater or less degree, imbued with the love of field sports; and even those, who, from habits of business, accident, or any other cause, have not acquired that keen relish for these pleasures which men not bred in London or its vicinity usually display, will still, on beholding a fine horse, or in listening to the account of some brilliant run with hounds, and the feats of their followers, betray sufficient signs of animation to give sure token of a spirit lurking within which nothing but circumstance has been wanting to bring to maturity.

We are essentially a nation of horsemen, and decidedly take the lead of all others in whatever

relates to the breeding, management, and training of horses either for the road, the field, or the turf. The love of horses pervades all ranks, from the Nobleman to the Costermonger, and with very many of us is an inborn passion, which clearly manifests itself even in infancy, continuing to augment with our increasing years. It is this very ardor of attachment to our favourite animal that leads many a man to purchase what he considers a good-looking nag, without being in the slightest degree capable of forming a correct judgment either as to his appearance, action, soundness, or value. The cock of the tail is with many the criterion of beauty, and, provided it be carried high, something after the fashion of a neatly-docked terrier, or nearly so, all imperfections are cast into the shade. Should a horse at the same time hold his head well up, the affair of purchasing him is that of a few minutes; and thus it happens that a jerk with a sharp curb-bit and a small piece of ginger produce more money in the course of a year than any two little nostrums with which I am acquainted.

The object of the following pages is to put the novice in horse-flesh on his guard against the tricks of dealers of a low class, and to teach him all that is necessary for a man to know who wishes to be able to form an opinion of the soundness

and value of a horse, without being forced to credit the *ipse-dixit* of the seller, or to rely on the judgment of others.

Many very useful books have doubtless been published on this subject; but some are too scientific, others too prolix, and few, if any, of them teach the mode of detecting the tricks that are too frequently resorted to for the purpose of concealing defects and entrapping the unwary. A very few chapters will suffice to reveal the artifices of the lower class of horse-dealers; and, with a little study and some practical experience, any man may soon acquire sufficient knowledge to prevent his being grossly imposed on by them. Every one must, however, expect to pay for experience, and it is wonderful how the loss of a few pounds in the purchase of *screws* (as unsound horses are termed) serves to open a man's eyes to his want of discrimination.

I must beg it to be understood that what I shall write for the edification of the unlearned in the ills of horse-flesh is not to be received in the light of a treatise on the diseases of the horse; for as I am not a veterinary surgeon, and moreover have never studied more of the veterinary art than was sufficient, combined with my own experience in purchasing such horses as I have thought would suit me, to enable me to pay no more for a horse

than, barring accidents, I could get back for him, I rest my claims to the character of instructor in the art and mystery of purchasing a horse simply on the basis of experience, the best of all guides on every occasion. And here I may add, that, with the exception of horses that have been ill, or have met with accidents, although in my day I have been possessed of many, and scarcely ever of a bad one, I believe I should have considerable difficulty in making myself out a loser of ten pounds by all the horses put together which I have at any time lost money by—a pretty convincing proof that my judgment of the value of a horse very rarely leads me into error. My plan is invariably, when I find that I have been deceived in the powers and performance of a horse, and that he does not suit my purpose, to get rid of him to the best bidder, hoping to have better luck with my next purchase; and I have very seldom lost more than two or three pounds in this way. A bad horse is never worth keeping, for he will eat as much as a good one, without your deriving the smallest satisfaction from using him. Indeed, to ride or drive a bad and sluggish animal is an affair far too trying for my disposition, and I therefore take good care that such brutes shall never have an opportunity of disturbing the equanimity of my temper long.

I shall begin by endeavouring to point out the proper shape of a horse, and shall then proceed to notice his defects, whether constituting unsoundness or not, together with the tricks which are resorted to for the purpose of concealing them; after which I may possibly make a few remarks upon the action of the horse, and the best method of managing him in the stable—a point upon which I am exceedingly particular. Many men have by nature a very correct eye for the proper shape of a nag, and of animals in general, but by far the greater part are taken with the general bearing and spirit evinced by a horse, without observing that perhaps many of his points may be decidedly bad; as hollowness of the back, bad and weak hocks, small feet, groggy legs, &c. These faults, be the horse's courage and *tout ensemble* what they may, detract materially from his value, and therefore require considerable attention in estimating his worth. In order to determine the absolute value of horses for every species of work, you should, when thoroughly grounded in the knowledge of their proper form and their defects, frequent the public sales at Tattersall's, Allen's, Dixon's, and other places, and you will soon acquire the knack of putting a just price, or very nearly so, on most horses that you may see.

CHAPTER II.

ON SHAPE.

THE first thing to be looked to in a horse is his shape. Of this it is quite impossible to give a very luminous description, as many horses very differently shaped may each still be well made, although adapted for different work. Thus, a horse with rather an upright shoulder may nevertheless be extremely well-proportioned, although this very conformation would tend to mark him as more fitted for harness than for a saddle-horse. Generally speaking, however, a horse's head should be fine, broad between the eyes, and tapering towards the nose; the jaws should be clean and unencumbered with flesh; the eye full, bright, and lively; the nostrils open and of a bright red internally (which generally denotes breeding and courage); the space between the jaws underneath should be roomy and void of lumps or glandular swellings; the ears should be well set into the head and pointed forwards. A heavy lop-eared horse is always an unsightly animal, and fre-

quently a slug: a long ear, well carried, is not uncommonly a characteristic of good blood. A horse's neck should be light, airy, well-curved, and having a considerable sweep underneath at its junction with the jaws. When the neck joins the head at a sharp angle, the latter always seems as though Nature had tired of her work, and had stuck it on anyhow just to get it out of the way. Moreover, horses whose windpipe is curved where it is set into the jaw have generally better wind than others, inasmuch as the air in expiration has not to encounter the obstruction caused by the angle above-mentioned, and consequently during violent exertion rushes out without difficulty. Most people admire a long neck, but this is certainly a fault. A long-necked horse is generally weak and washy (and frequently predisposed to become a roarer), and the rest of his shape commonly partakes of the same type, his body being long, and his legs none of the shortest. I have heard veterinary surgeons say, that for clearness of wind a horse's neck cannot be too short; but a very short neck is unsightly, nor has it in my opinion any advantage over a neck of medium proportion.

We now come to the shoulder. I have already said that an upright shoulder generally marks the harness-horse; a sloping shoulder may therefore

be supposed as requisite in a horse destined for saddle-work. This is truly the case. A horse with a shoulder well inclined forward has generally better action, has less of his own weight to carry directly on his fore-legs, and is therefore safer on them than the horse whose shoulder is scarcely out of the line of his fore-legs: in harness the latter may do, as he has his collar to lean against, and has no weight to carry on his back, but he must ever be an unsafe and an unpleasant hack. Much dispute has arisen as to whether a horse's withers should be narrow, or the reverse. This is a point of no consequence, as many very excellent horses may be found whose withers are made in either way, a horse with a high wither being mostly narrow in that part, and *vice versâ*. Provided he carry a saddle well, the wither may be either broad or otherwise. The high-withered horse, however, is not unfrequently narrow-chested, which is a bad point, as that part should be well expanded in order to allow plenty of room for the lungs: nevertheless, many a narrow-chested horse has performed wonders, they being for the most part well-bred; but be this as it may, as a general rule plenty of room in the chest is a desideratum. At the same time it must be remembered that the more a horse's breed approaches to that of the cart-horse, the greater

will, in most cases, be the breadth of the forehead. Thus in this, as in most other things, the golden medium is the grand desideratum.

We now come to the back. This should be short, and rather arched over the loins, having the tail set in rather high. The body should be deep, and well ribbed up; that is, between the last rib and the huckle-bone, or hip, the distance should not be such as to allow of any great *hollow*, which ordinarily denotes a horse of no great power. Some horses with this defect will often do a great deal of work, but they never look well, and are a source of disappointment to those who take pains to bring their horses out in good form. Many of them, after being nursed for a week, will in the course of a few hours 'work void a quantity of sloppy loose dung, and look as though they had been starved for a month: such brutes are not worth their keep, much less the trouble of nursing. It is a good plan, when examining a horse of this shape, to watch him for some time, and if he be constantly cocking his tail and venting a little wind, you may be sure that his bowels are weak and irritable, and that he is not worth the trouble he will occasion you. Now with respect to a horse's rump and hind-quarters, it is generally remarked that the Irish horses have very low rumps—in other words, they are goose-

rumped, and very great numbers of our blood-stock incline to this formation. Do not therefore reject a horse on this account, but give him a trial, and if he carries you well, get something taken off the price he is worth *if you can*, on account of his anserine shape, and think yourself lucky. A low-rumped horse generally puts his hind legs well under him when at work, and this is a rare quality. The Irish horses are also frequently wide-hipped, and this formation must not be mistaken as occasioning the hollow of which I have made mention.

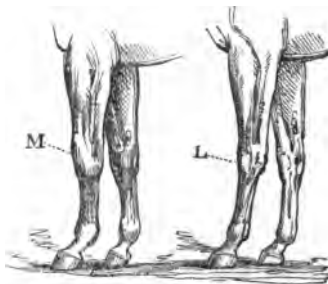
You will commonly hear a horse praised for the length of his quarter, and a dealer will not fail to make you remark the distance from the hip-bone to the point of the quarter, and also to the hock ; but experience shews that a horse with a short quarter is for the most part particularly strengthly, and a good jumper ; for short muscles are, *cæteris paribus*, the strongest. A horse's thighs should be well clothed with muscle down to the hock ; there, and thence to the hoof, all should be clean, flat, and sinewy. There should be a considerable bend in the back part of the thigh, as a horse with very straight hind-legs has seldom much action in them. Some of them, however, are exceptions to this rule, and Lares-tina, the steeple-chase mare, is, I think, as straight

in the hind-legs as any horse I ever saw. Horses that are cat-hammed, as it is called—or, in other words, that stand with the caps of the hocks nearly touching each other—are seldom thought much of, and yet most of the Welch ponies, that travel such extraordinary distances with very little preparation, are thus made. Here again, give a horse of this description a trial, and judge him by his deeds, not by his looks. The fore-legs should be muscular down to the knee, and thence, like the hind-legs, flat and sinewy. With respect to the foot, it should be nearly circular, gradually increasing in size as it proceeds downwards. Its inclination outwards should not be so great as that of the pastern; if it slope very much forwards, it is a chance if it be not in a state bordering upon disease, and its obliquity, throwing the horse too much on his heel, produces tenderness of the part and straining of the back sinew of the leg.

These are then some of the most important points to be attended to in a first view of a horse, but there are also many others, equally requiring inspection, which are not to be lightly passed over. Among these perhaps the most important, after the shape of the leg and foot, is their *position*.—(And here I may as well mention that I am speaking of a horse that has not been strained by work, of which I shall take notice hereafter.)—

On standing in front of a horse, his legs should be straight, or very nearly so, and the feet should neither be turned inwards nor outwards. A horse whose feet turn outward is liable both to cut and trip, and very rarely has really good action, throwing his legs rather wide of each other, and thereby losing ground in his stride; and a *pin-toe'd* or *pigeon-toe'd* horse, as dealers term those whose hoofs turn inward, usually, on bending the knee, *dishes*, or throws the foot outward while under the belly, shewing the sole of the hoof in his action to those who stand on one side of him. Now this is not only very unsightly, but horses with this awkward mode of going generally labour in their action, and do as much work in one mile as a clean stepper does in two. The legs should be set well under the muscles of the fore part of the shoulder, not as though they were dropping out of the chest, and had been clapped on there until a better place could be found for them. In viewing the leg sideways (making due allowance for the bulging of muscles) it should be nearly straight, though many people prefer what they term an *arch-knee'd* horse—that is, a horse whose knees bow out forwards—and will tell you that they are far the best legs for work. This may be all very true, provided there be not an equivalent hollow about the knee behind; but where this is the case, it is a sure sign

of weakness; on the contrary, a horse will sometimes be found *calf-knee'd*, which is the opposite of the former shape, the knee perhaps inclining a trifle inwards, and the shank always sloping forwards. Such animals are seldom good goers, and their legs are rarely found to stand hard work for any length of time.



ARCHED-KNEES. CALF-KNEES.

The position of the hind legs should be either straight from the hock downwards, or a little inclining under the belly. Horses of this latter formation are commonly low-rumped, and throw their hind legs well under them when at work. The toe of the cat-hammed horse will naturally turn a little outwards. Such horses, as I have already said, provided they have no other serious fault, are to be tried. A horse that *paddles* with his hind legs, throwing them away from him like a duck, in his trot, is usually weak behind, and moreover feels so to his rider, than which nothing can be more disagreeable. If a horse stand with his hind legs much under him, dropping his hind-quarters at the same time, care must be taken to

examine if he have any disease of the back or kidneys, which may occasion him to assume this posture. Many a horse that throws his hind legs perfectly well under him in a trot while being run in hand, will lose this action when saddled and ridden, provided he have a sore back ; therefore a cure for the back will prove a cure for his bad style of going.—*Sublatâ causâ tollitur effectus.*

In examining these points, more particularly those which relate to the legs, never allow the horse to be held up by the bridle or to stand on rising ground. A dealer's man, when shewing a horse, invariably throws the snaffle and curb reins over his head, and holding him back with the latter, while with a long whip he touches him up behind according to his mettle, causes him to hold his head so high that he scarcely perceives where he shall place his feet ; the consequence is, that he both bends the knee more and throws the foot farther than he will do in his usual style of going ; and when brought to a stand on rising ground, his head, still carried high, makes him advance the fore-legs so as to conceal any knuckling of the knees or pastern-joints, and gives many a perfectly groggy beast an appearance of freshness to which his legs have long been strangers. I shall have occasion to speak of the practices of the lower class of dealers in horses in this work,

when these and many other tricks calculated to take in the unwary shall be exposed. In the mean time I may state, that, when an examination of a horse's legs is to be made, he should be placed on perfectly level ground, with his head loose, and his feet should be picked clean; for if much dirt be collected within the shoe, it may cause a sound horse to stand upon the toe more than the heel, and give him an appearance of weakness about the pasterns and knees which he does not really possess.

CHAPTER III.

ON THE DEFECTS OF HORSES.

THE defects of horses are so very numerous that it would be almost a hopeless task to endeavour to enumerate them all; nevertheless those which are most commonly met with shall receive due consideration from me; and I hope to be able to point out to those about to purchase a horse such as immediately interfere with his work, or are likely to render him comparatively useless. There are many very serious defects in horses which unfortunately are only discovered after considerable trial, and are therefore generally detected too late to save the pocket from depletion. It is a very usual custom with dealers to allow a purchaser to ride a horse only a few times up and down a livery-yard prior to buying him; or, if he be intended for harness, to send a man to drive him up and down two or three streets, after which he is returned to his stable as quickly as possible, and the dealer's oratory completes the business in a short time if he have to do with a novice.

Considering the risks which dealers themselves run in buying horses, we can be very little surprised that they should give no greater trial to another than is allowed to themselves. "Buy the devil and sell him again" is the dealer's adage, and he who is unlucky enough to obtain his Satanic Majesty gets rid of him in the best way he can, and leaves the new possessor to shift for himself. A man who is in the habit of purchasing horses will very soon, and with a very moderate trial, acquire knowledge and tact sufficient to estimate in almost all cases the real value of a horse, provided he be neither a racer nor a steeple-chaser. Nevertheless the very best judges may sometimes be imposed on, if not with regard to the soundness, at least with respect to the powers and constitution of a horse.

In enumerating the defects to which a horse is liable, I shall begin with those which constitute unsoundness, and shall afterwards proceed to examine those, which, although detracting certainly from his value, are not of sufficient magnitude to allow a purchaser to return him as diseased.

The first part to be examined in a horse is the top of the head; for in this part there occasionally exists a disease called *Poll Evil*, which is generally occasioned by blows, either received from a brutal

rider in the constant habit of striking his horse over the head, or from hitting this part against the roof of a low stable or the top of a stable-door. In the first stage there may be swelling, tenderness, and perhaps a collection of matter, but at a more advanced period of the disease there are seen sores, from which exudes a fetid discharge. These sores not unfrequently are connected with disease of some portion of bone, in which case they are exceedingly troublesome and tedious of cure.

The next part to be examined with regard to soundness is the eye. For this purpose let the horse be led just within the stable-door, where there is not too strong a light, but still sufficient to allow a perfect view of the organ without causing the pupil to contract. Approach your finger gently towards each eye in succession, and mark if the horse close his eyelid on your nearly touching his eye; if so, it is at least clear that he is capable of distinguishing your finger; but this is by no means sufficient to warrant a conclusion that the eye is sound. The pupil of the eye is that dark-coloured central portion, of an oval shape, through which the rays of light are admitted. The remaining external portion (called the *cornea*) is opaque, and consequently need not be examined with the same scrupulous attention

that is requisite on inspecting the pupil. It is of very great importance to acquire an accurate knowledge of the natural state of a horse's eye, more especially if he be intended for saddle-work, since it is obvious that, however sound he may be in every other respect, and however good his action, he never can be trusted to himself on the road if his eyes be defective to any great extent, and of course must be useless as a hunter. Moreover, if ever destined for harness, for which alone a horse with bad eyes can be used with any degree of safety, it is of consequence to be able to detect disease of those organs in order not to be imposed on in price. Stand, therefore, before the horse after testing his eyes with your finger, and look narrowly whether the size of both pupils be alike. If there is any difference, be sure that there is a defect in his sight. The form of the healthy pupil is a rather-flattened oval, and appears of a deep blue colour, but at the same time bright and free from specks. When it is of a milky hue, it is a sign that inflammation of the membrane of the eye is going on; and although this in very many instances may arise from some trifling cause, and may be easily cured, still never purchase a horse with this appearance of the pupil without previous knowledge of him, or a certainty of the cause of opacity or cloudy state of the eye,

and of its likelihood of removal. Many horses are *periodically* subject to this attack of inflammation of the *conjunctiva*, or membrane covering the eye, and commonly, even while the eye is free from any visible complaint, have a drooping of the upper eyelid, which should always put a purchaser on his guard. In this disease there are generally to be found marks of bleeding in the vein under the eye. The eyelids are sometimes nearly closed during this milky appearance of the pupil, and tears trickle profusely from it, so that it must be evident to the greatest novice in horse-dealing that something is wrong: but the stableman and his master are never at fault for an excuse: "A bit of hay got in his eye last night, Sir;" or "Bill, I knew you'd hit that horse's eye when you were brushing his head this morning—I *told* you so:" after which follows, as a matter of course, "It is of no consequence, Sir, it will be well enough to-morrow." Now it is of no use to argue with a horse-dealer, and you will gain little by asking many questions; therefore either make up your mind to have nothing whatever to do with the animal, or else say you will call and see him another day. And here I may as well say, that a man who is a good judge of horse-flesh should always determine not to pay the slightest attention to the encomiums which every dealer

will pass upon his stock. Let all his eloquence, if it must be heard, make no more impression on your mind than do the tunes which you are in the daily habit of hearing ground upon all the organs in London. Form your own opinion by what you see and feel, and let no persuasion tempt you to disbelieve the evidences of your own senses. This by way of episode.

Now to return to the eye of the horse. Having satisfied yourself that the pupils are alike in form and size, and unclouded, look if there be any specks visible upon either. Some horses will be found to have several dark and irregularly-shaped spots upon the pupil, which are the product of disease, impede vision, and render a horse unsafe to ride. Others again will be found to have perhaps one little whitish spot *on the membrane* in front of the pupil, and this is probably the effect of a blow received at some period or another; if very small it will seldom prove of much consequence. But this whitish spot on the *surface* of the membrane must be carefully distinguished from a similar appearance, in its commencement very minute, which is not unfrequently found to occupy the internal part of the pupil. Where this exists, it indicates that change in the lens of the eye termed *cataract*, and is an incurable disease. Take care, however, that you be not deceived

with regard to this white spot by the reflection of your shirt in the horse's eye—a mistake I have seen occur more than once, and which may be avoided by moving from side to side, and watching if the supposed cataract follow the motions of your body.

There is yet another disease of the eye which produces no perceptible outward change in its appearance, but which nevertheless is both an incurable complaint and one that renders a horse totally useless for the saddle: it is called *moon-blindness*, and generally depends on disease of the optic nerve, although I am by no means sure that it may not be occasioned by the same causes that produce *short-sightedness* in the human eye. To detect this, observe if the horse, on being ridden, turn suddenly round from any object which is approaching him, and appear constantly on the alert to find some subject for fright. A horse that has long been shut up in a stable, particularly if it be dark, or that has for some time been only exercised in a livery-yard, may do this on being taken into the streets; and a young horse from the country will also see much to alarm him in London, especially if he be naturally timid; therefore some allowance must be made for these circumstances: but if a horse, on being led out of or into a livery-yard where the entrance is lofty,

appear to stop and hesitate in passing the gate, and then go through it with a sort of plunge; and if in the streets he stretch his neck from side to side, poking his nose out, and seeming, like a purblind man, to be endeavouring to make out the nature of objects at a short distance from him, let your suspicions of the state of his eyes be immediately aroused, and be sure to have a very sufficient trial before you become the purchaser of such an animal.

The common name among dealers for horses with any complaint whatever of the eyes is *buck-eyed*, and this convenient term embraces the whole range of diseases of which the eye is susceptible. It is as well that the novice should be made acquainted with the terms in common use among the dealing fraternity, otherwise such a one as *buck-eyed* might very probably be supposed to be employed as implying a good rather than a bad quality.

A yellowish hue of the cornea indicates disease of the liver. Where this is remarked, the lips should be turned up, and their internal structure examined. Where they are found of a similar tinge, you will incur a great risk in buying the horse, as these symptoms are sure proofs of internal disease, the extent of which you are not capable of determining. Dealers term these horses *rotten*.

Their coats are generally staring, and they have also the other usual appearances of want of condition. The dung of such horses is either unusually slimy and fetid, or it is loose and washy, like that of a cow. They are languid and sleepy if left to themselves, but are of course, through the influence of ginger administered *à la mode*, salt put into their mouths, and the liberal application of the whip whenever the master enters the stable, made to cock their tails, champ their bit, and exhibit as much animation for a short time as the soundest and best-constituted horse in the world. "He is the best horse in England, Sir, an unkimmon jumper, and as fast as a rally-road: his master would not take any money for him, Sir, but he is obliged to go abroad, and will almost *give* him away," should bring to mind the old line,

Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.

Ere I conclude the subject of the eye of a horse, I should remark that the fringe-like substance which hangs from the upper part of the pupil is a natural appearance common to every sound eye, and must not be confounded with the spots or specks of which I have made mention.

Too great caution cannot be used in inspecting a horse's eyes previously to purchasing him, for

without good sight he is worth but very little money, and the sooner he is got rid of the better for his owner. I once purchased a very fine grey horse of a dealer, and the only fault I could find with him was his unwillingness to pass through the gate-way of his yard, which was in Tottenham Court Road. However, he was ridden up and down a little street at the back of his stables, and went extremely well, his action being remarkable showy, as it usually is with horses who have defective vision. I expressed my conviction that his eyes were bad, although to appearance they were perfectly sound. However, as I had paid money for another horse which turned out lame, and wanted to get something else for my bad bargain, I allowed the swearing of the dealer and his men as to his soundness to prevail, and rode him away. I went no farther with him, however, than the Regent's Park, he having in that short distance turned round with me about twenty times on the approach of a carriage or chaise, and made me fight as many battles with him before I could make him go the way I wished. I kept the horse in my possession altogether about a quarter of an hour; for, being thoroughly convinced of his unsoundness, I rode him immediately back, and exchanged him for a little four-year-old filly, worth about one-fourth of the horse's value had his eyes been

good, but much more serviceable than he was in his moon-blind state. As this was the fourth horse I had had in exchange of the same man, and had found myself a loser by every dealing I had with him, I determined to do the best I could with the filly, instead of losing any more money by bargaining with a rogue, and eventually had no reason to repent of my determination. A horse-dealer who has once fingered your cash will never refund ; and depend on it you may exchange with him a dozen times, and each time you will pay money for a fresh horse, without finding yourself a bit better suited than at first, unless the sum you pay be considerable. Thus, a gentleman who makes up his mind to give £40 for a nag, *and no more*, goes to one of these tricky dealers, buys a horse worth perhaps £20, finds it does not suit him, and gives £5 more for another to which he takes a fancy. Discovering after a short trial that his last purchase is something worse than the first, he returns, expostulates, pays more money, and is as badly mounted as ever. At length, wearied by successive impositions, he is contented to put up with a screw of little value, and finds that he has been gradually led on to pay £15 or £20 more than the sum he had first resolved on giving, for a horse with which he is, after all, far from being pleased ; and, worse than

all, there is no remedy for his disappointment but patience and the exercise of his philosophy, if he have any.

The eyes of the horse you intend to purchase being sound, the next part to be examined is the nose. For this purpose, pinch the nostrils together so as to prevent him from breathing for about a minute. On removing the hand the horse will snort, and you will then be able to see whether he blow out any thick tenacious mucus; if so, he has probably a cold, and possibly the glanders. In the latter disease the mucus is frequently fetid and streaked with blood, and there are glandular enlargements under the jaws. Where these last exist, in combination with a foul and sometimes bloody discharge from the nostrils, especially from the right one, if you are not a veterinary surgeon, and capable of ascertaining, that, instead of the glanders, the horse has a severe cold with the remains of a swelling left by the strangles (a disease to which every young horse is liable), have nothing whatever to do with him, and if you err, it will at least be on the safe side. But, unless you should be tempted by a fine horse, suffering from a heavy cold, being offered to you at a low price, that complaint alone, setting aside any dread of glanders, should be sufficient to deter you from buying him; for many horses are simultaneously attacked by

inflammation of the wind-pipe, which is a species of influenza, or *distemper*, as it is generally termed, to which of late years horses in this country have been peculiarly obnoxious, and, on recovering from which, very many are found complete roarers, or in some degree touched in the wind. The roaring in these cases is commonly produced by the permanent thickening of the wind-pipe in some part or other (a common result of inflammation), which, by diminishing the natural calibre of that tube, impedes the free exit of the air from the lungs. Of roaring, and the best mode of detecting it, I shall have to speak in its proper place.

It is certainly, in some cases, a point requiring very nice discrimination to detect the difference between the two complaints I have mentioned when glandular swellings under the jaw accompany a cold, and I would not advise any person to become the purchaser of a horse in the latter state, without previously consulting some Veterinary Surgeon of eminence, and being sure that the horse on recovery will be worth much more than the price asked for him. I have heard of a race-horse (belonging I think to the late Duke of Bedford) that happened to fall into the state I have mentioned, and was sold at Smithfield for two pounds as a glandered horse. His owner commenced feeding

him on hot grains put into a nose-bag, and the head being thus frequently kept in a sort of vapour-bath, the horse, whose complaint was really a very severe cold, after a time recovered, and was bought back by his former master for a very large sum. Such anecdotes as these, whether true or false, usually make too great an impression upon men who are rather sanguine on the subject of horses, and they are apt, without consideration, to make up their minds to buy the first fine-looking but suspicious animal they may meet with, in the hope that a similar piece of good fortune awaits them. It is, however, much better, and will in the end be found more advantageous, to give a fair sum for a sound and promising horse than to buy a screw even for a song.

The next part requiring examination is the mouth, both for the purpose of ascertaining if any disease exist there, and for determining the age of a horse by the appearance of the teeth. On this latter point I shall briefly confine myself to a description of the marks by which the age up to eight or ten years may be pretty correctly determined, leaving the subject of the anatomical changes in the mouth to abler hands. A horse at five years of age has forty teeth, of which twenty-four are grinders, situated far back in the jaw, and with which we have little to do. The teeth

of the colt are very easily distinguished from those of the horse by their peculiar whiteness and want of size. A colt, up to the age of three years, has no permanent front teeth, or nippers, but there are marks, especially about the grinders, by which the difference of age may be ascertained. Thus, the first grinder on each side will be found a permanent tooth at two years of age, and the general appearance of the colt, his size and development of muscle, will distinguish him from the yearling. Moreover the tail of a yearling colt is curly and short in comparison to that of a two-year-old, at which period the tail begins to grow straight, and the coat loses the rough appearance which it has up to this time. At three years of age the two centre nippers will have given way to the permanent teeth, which are larger and more yellow than their predecessors. Thus a colt at this period will have in front of each jaw two permanent and four colt's teeth. A year later you will find that two more sucking teeth have been replaced by the permanent or horse's teeth, and there will then consequently be four of the latter and two of the former in front of each jaw. This change *begins* to take place some months before the age of four years, at which time the growth of the permanent teeth is complete. At this period the cunning dealer draws the remaining

colt's teeth, and will pass a mare off as being full five years old, by bidding you remark that she has no colt's teeth ; nor will he scruple to say the same of a horse if he think his customer rather green. But you must in the first case notice the number of teeth in the jaw, and in the second remark that the tush is wanting. Now horses invariably have tushes, whereas in the mare's mouth they are in almost every case wanting. Extraction of the colt's teeth generally accelerates the appearance of the permanent teeth by which they are replaced ; but as the trick is generally resorted to with a forward and well-grown colt, you can only be deceived in his age by a few months, and that is not of much consequence.

At four years and a half the corner teeth are found to have given way to the permanent nippers, which are fully developed at the beginning of the fifth year ; and the tush, which pushes through the gum about the same period, and which is situated a little posterior to the front teeth, is also at the same time nearly full grown. In each corner permanent tooth will be remarked a deep depression, shelving away from the fore part of the tooth nearly to the gum posteriorly. Its colour is black, or nearly so, and this is called the *mark* in a horse's mouth. Before six years of age the tush is full grown, and has a slight groove on its internal

surface (which gradually disappears with age, the tush itself becoming more rounded and blunt), and at six the mark in the corner nipper no longer appears to dip down to the gum, but looks like a hole made in the enamel of the tooth. This hole very nearly disappears at the age of seven years (more especially in the mare), but the black mark still remains in the centre of the tooth, and is not totally filled up until the horse be full eight years old. At this time he is said to be *aged*, because, after this period, there are no certain and infallible marks by which his age can be determined. Nevertheless an acute observer will not be very much mistaken in this particular for a year or two, even after all the marks in the tooth are obliterated. It is absolutely impossible to give with any degree of accuracy an account of those appearances which lead a good judge of horse-flesh to make up his mind as to the probable age of a horse after he has turned his eighth year, as nothing but experience can give this *acumen*, which to some men comes much more naturally than to others. However, as far as description will avail, I shall endeavour to point out those signs of age which do not altogether depend upon the mouth, and observation must do the rest.

In the first place, after the age of eight years, the teeth, on account of the shrinking of the gums, begin

to appear elongated, and this increase in their length augments every year, together with other constitutional signs, which, when present in a great degree, can leave no doubt of the antiquity of their possessor. Of these I shall speak presently. Many people insist that the marks in the nippers of the upper jaw remain longer than those in the lower, owing to the former being a fixed point upon which the latter is moved. Of this I am not prepared to say anything, as I have always satisfied myself with the appearances I have already described and those I have still to mention. As the age of a horse increases, the teeth, in addition to becoming longer, lose their upright position and project forward, the upper teeth more particularly. They assume also an arched form, and frequently become so prominent as to be much in advance of the teeth of the lower jaw. The ridges in the soft palate also become nearly obliterated; the muscles shrink, particularly about the jaws and neck; there is a deep pit above either eye; the back becomes hollow; and the posterior lip falls away from the jaw, or hangs much lower than its fellow. Grey hairs begin to be found sprinkled here and there about the dark-coloured horse, especially about the face, and often in the mane, and the naturally grey horse becomes white. Added to this, there is an ex-

pression about the countenance which speaks of labour done and by-gone years which it is as impossible to mistake as to describe. When all or most of these signs are combined in a horse, I would say,

“Hunc tu caveto,”

for a very old horse is a very bad subject for speculation. Your trouble in endeavouring to put him into condition will, with your corn, be quite thrown away; and perhaps, before you can get back your purchase money, the ravenous stomach of a pack of fox-hounds will have afforded a grave to the mortal remains of your venerable quadruped.

It is always necessary to examine the physical signs of age generally in the horse in addition to those furnished by the teeth; for, of course, the appearances of youth, adding considerably to his value, have in some measure been imitated by the tricks of “the fraternity,” and principally in the following way:—When the marks are obliterated from the teeth, they are to some extent reproduced by the aid of a graving instrument, and the rasp speedily reduces their length. A hot iron is afterwards introduced into the hollow made in the corner teeth, in order to occasion a blackish mark; but this is seldom effected in a natural manner,

for the mark is of a brownish hue, and, moreover, a ring of a lighter brown encircling it is occasioned by the heat of the instrument employed. This operation has received the name of *Bishoping*—why, I cannot say, unless their reverences are supposed to stand a good chance of becoming familiar with hot iron. Just before a bishoped horse is shewn, it is usual to give him a few hard beans, the chewing which produces a deal of saliva, which prevents, in some instances, the detection of the imposition that has been practised.

In addition to this, a very small incision is made in the skin of the pit above the eye, and a blow-pipe being introduced, the cellular membrane is inflated until the hollow nearly disappears, after which the skin is pinched, or some adhesive matter placed on the incised part, to prevent the escape of the air.

When a low dealer cannot get at the tools needful for these artifices, or is not expert in their use, the most common trick played is the following. He stands by the horse in his stall, takes hold of his mouth, and then with one hand immediately strikes him on the lips. This causes the horse to jerk up his head, and the manoeuvre is repeated until he will not allow his mouth to be touched.

If by coaxing and gentle treatment you prevail

on the horse to let you handle his head, a menace with a whip, scarcely perceived by you, sets the horse dancing immediately, for every dealer's horse is quite as well acquainted with the nature of a thong as the whip-maker who manufactured it. The dealer's man at last, seeing you bent on examining the mouth, succeeds in laying hold of the nose with one hand, and with the other, pretending to coax him and get his head down, slips the tip of his finger into his eye just as you are about to commence your inspection, and away goes the horse's head into the air immediately. All this while both master and man are assuring you with many oaths that the horse is just six years old, or at most seven—for be it known no dealer ever yet sold a horse of greater age—and at last perhaps, wearied out with your efforts, you are content to take their word on the very slight chance of their telling the truth for once. If, however, they acknowledge to seven years old, be assured the horse is aged, and perhaps five or six years older than he is represented to be. You must therefore note the other signs of age which I have enumerated; and I should also strenuously advise you to tell the dealer quietly that you *will* see the horse's mouth, even if it be necessary to apply the twitch for that purpose; and if he still throws any objection in your way, say at once that if you

cannot inspect his teeth he will not suit you. This will never fail to bring your man to his senses, particularly when he sees he has not a flat to deal with.

Besides the examination of the marks in a horse's teeth, there are some complaints of the mouth which it will be as well to notice, although I am not acquainted with any so serious as to deter any one from becoming a purchaser.

First then there is a complaint called *Lampas*, to which all horses, especially when young, are subject. It consists in an enlargement and fullness of the palate, which projects beyond the teeth and prevents the animal from masticating his food. It is easily cured by scarification and astringent applications, the best of which perhaps is a mixture of salt and vinegar.

Ulcers of the mouth are not uncommon from sharp bits, and occasionally a small portion of bone will exfoliate from the same cause. In this latter case the fetid smell of the breath will lead you to detect the complaint, which is seldom serious if the cause producing it be removed.

Occasionally a general redness of the membrane lining the mouth or some part of it will be observed, and upon examining the grinders—which you will best do by pulling out the horse's tongue and holding it to one side—you will per-

ceive a raggedness or an elongation of one or more of them, which being removed by a rasp, the irritation of the mouth soon ceases.

On account of this latter malformation, horses, being unable to masticate their food, throw it up in small balls, which may sometimes be found in the manger. The same effect is produced by sore throat or any other impediment to deglutition, and such horses are termed *Quidders*. The natural consequence of quidding is of course low condition, and on this ground it is a habit which materially lessens the value of a horse so long as it lasts. In the case of elongated or ragged teeth giving rise to quidding, the evil is very easily removed; but where it is caused by sore throat, you must bear in mind that there is such a thing as influenza or distemper, of which complaint this is a prominent symptom, and also that its consequences are not unfrequently roaring, whistling or piping, chronic cough, or diseased lungs in some shape or other. Do not therefore buy a horse while he has sore throat; but, if he please you in other respects, wait a couple of days and then examine him again, by which means you will see if the complaint have made any progress or not.

I have a word or two to say respecting the tongue. A short time ago a carter was brought

before a magistrate for cruelty to a horse, inasmuch as, according to the statement of his accuser, he cut out the tongue of the horse he was driving. The man pleaded that he had no intention whatever of doing so, but as the horse would not back, he had jerked him suddenly with the bitt, and, to use his own expression, "the tongue jumped out of his mouth." At the time I read this I certainly did not credit the man's statement, deeming it impossible that a blunt instrument like a bitt could have produced such an effect. It has, however, since happened to me very nearly to do the same thing. A mare of mine, after having been bridled, made a dart out of the stable, when I caught the curb rein, and giving it a smart jerk cut her tongue more than half through. I did nothing whatever to it; the bleeding soon stopped, and in a few days it healed perfectly; but so deep was the cut that I had my apprehensions lest the part by which one half of the tongue adhered to the remainder should not be sufficient for its nourishment, and should become gangrenous and drop off. This accident has been a lesson to me which I shall not forget, and, as it may happen to others as well as myself, my advice to you is, that while you are looking into a horse's mouth you may as well examine his tongue.

Having satisfactorily ascertained the age of the horse you are about to purchase, you may pass your hand down his neck and assure yourself that there are no swellings in the course of the veins, the principal of which runs along the hollow nearly parallel to the crest at about the lower third of the neck. Swellings situated in the course of the veins and absorbent vessels are one symptom of farcy, a disease which not unfrequently runs into glanders. It is not unusual also, on an examination of these parts, to discover that the large vein of the neck is obliterated from inflammation following breeding. This is generally considered a very serious evil, but, in truth, if it have existed long, and there be no general puffiness of the parts *above* the spot where this vein is obliterated, it is to be presumed that the neighbouring veins have become sufficiently enlarged to carry on the circulation. Many marks of bleeding about the neck should lead you to suspect that the horse has either had a violent attack of illness, or that he is periodically subject to some complaint for the cure of which it is requisite to let blood. The vein on the off-side of the neck is generally preferred for bleeding, inasmuch as a horse, when shewn out to a customer, is always placed with that side against a wall or stable, and the marks

of the lancet are therefore not discovered unless the examiner have the precaution to turn the horse round.

Having satisfied yourself of the state of these parts, you may lay your hand on the withers, and assure yourself that no fistulous sores exist there, as it is by no means an uncommon place to find them in. These, where they do exist, although admitting of remedy, are nevertheless generally tedious of cure, especially when they lead to diseased bone, and moreover, when healed, frequently leave an ugly scar, with a hollow in the top of the wither which is any thing but ornamental. This disease is similar in its nature to *Poll Evil*, of which I have already spoken.

The shoulders may next be examined for unsightly scars left by tight or hard collars, or occasioned by any other cause, as abscess, &c. In purchasing a horse at the hammer for driving, take care not to infer from mere collar-marks that he is quiet in harness. If you put the question to the auctioneer, it is ten to one (unless he be authorized to warrant him for such a purpose) that he will reply, "I have no instructions about his going in harness, but he has marks of the collar." Now in those cases where a horse having marks of collar-work will nevertheless not draw an ounce, the auctioneer himself may be, and pro-

bably is, deceived, for these marks are purposely produced, either by first putting a tight collar on the horse and then working it about, and rubbing his shoulders with it until it produce the requisite scars ; or a slight blister is applied in one or two places where the collar generally bears, so as to give the horse the appearance of having worked in harness. Excepting in the case of very low-priced horses, whose owners cannot be supposed to be in the habit of purchasing a new collar for every horse they possess, many marks about the shoulder, so far from giving rise to the supposition that he is accustomed to harness, should lead to the very opposite opinion, for a good horse is always worth a well-fitting collar, the expense of which is trifling.

After the examination of the shoulders comes that of the forelegs, a most important affair, and one which should never be hurried over. Their proper *position* has already been mentioned, but we have still to consider their defects and the diseases to which they are subject. The principal of these are splents, blows, strains, wind-galls, ringbone, ossification of the back sinews, speedy-cut, and blemishes from various causes. Any one of these defects, excepting perhaps wind-galls and some blemishes, may produce lameness ; therefore where this is occasioned by any cause it

will be needless to look for its origin, unless you think proper to speculate in an unsound horse with a view to his ultimate cure. I have purposely abstained from mentioning lameness of the shoulder, because this really is, in nine cases out of ten, a point upon which good authorities differ so much that I would always advise an opinion to be had from some expert and *well-practised* veterinary surgeon where this complaint is suspected. I have seen Members of the Veterinary College declare a horse to be lame in the shoulder when he has really been so from disease or injury of the foot; and as for common farriers, they are proverbial for clapping a blister on to the shoulder and a seton in the chest for every lameness of the fore-legs whose exact seat they cannot readily determine. Where a complaint is occasionally so puzzling to those who have made the disease of the horse their study, it would, therefore, be difficult to point out any method of determining with undeviating accuracy the seat of every lameness of the fore parts; and this is the less required, since lameness anywhere is a very sufficient reason for rejecting a horse altogether. The best criterion of this injury is the pain a horse with shoulder-lameness evinces on elevating the leg, or carrying it backwards, by which the humeral muscles are brought into action. It not unfrequently happens,

however, that a good judge may detect a cause of lameness which may be easily removed, and may accordingly, through this knowledge, occasionally pick up a very good bargain.

A splent is an enlargement of some part of the shank bone. Young horses are particularly liable to them, and it is generally remarked, that, as they become older the splents gradually diminish and very frequently disappear altogether. It is not often that you find a tolerably large splent, if it do not encroach upon the knee-joint or the back sinew, productive of



SPLNT.

lameness, unless a horse strike it with the foot of the other leg; but, on the other hand, you will sometimes be able to detect a splent, not larger perhaps than a pea, which is acutely sensitive, and gives rise to such lameness as, without experience in this disease, might appear to you quite disproportioned to its cause. If a good horse, having a splent of this description, is to be sold cheap, you need not hesitate to buy him, as a very trifling operation, which will not blemish him, and which consists in simply dividing the *periosteum*, or membrane covering the bone, will generally relieve him. The tension of this mem-

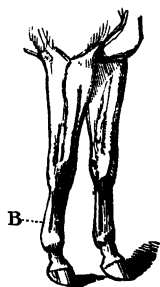
brane by the increased size of the bone occasions the pain which the horse experiences ; and once this is removed, he will in many, indeed in most cases, go perfectly sound. This then is one cause of lameness, which is easily remediable, and may be detected by pressure upon the affected part, which will make the horse immediately lift his leg, and shew other symptoms of pain, which can leave little doubt on the mind as to the nature of his complaint. A splent running into the knee-joint generally occurs on the inside of the leg, and is sometimes overlooked, unless both knees be carefully examined by standing in front of the horse.

It is not my intention, in this portion of my treatise at least, to dilate upon the proper means to be adopted for the cure of the ordinary diseases of a horse which really do not demand the attendance of a veterinary surgeon ; but as I have mentioned the practice of dividing the periosteum, I may remark, that, although it will give relief, a horse is not on that account to be immediately put to work, otherwise the inflammation of the bone, which originally gave rise to the formation of a splent, will of course increase, and with it the splent itself. Cold lotions should be constantly employed, and when the inflammatory action is reduced, if the splent be still perceptible, a slight blister may remove it altogether.

A blow may give rise to a splent, or to enlarge-

ment of any other part, the inflammation necessarily consequent on the injury producing a deposit of lymph in the part, which, becoming organised, leaves a permanent thickening in and around it. When of some standing, blisters will now and then remove this state of the injured part ; and if it do not occasion an unsightly blemish, nor interfere with a horse's action, you must exercise your own judgment respecting the value of a horse of this description, and which must be estimated by his performances ; for many a first-rate hunter, with the marks of several blows received in going across country, may be worth hundreds of guineas, whereas a common hack, not up to much weight, may, with similar appearances, not be worth as many shillings.

A strain generally happens in the back sinew. It is easily detected by the enlargement that follows it, which occasionally remains so great as to require the application of the actual cautery to remove it. On the first occurrence of a strain of the back sinew, lameness is sure to follow ; and as bleeding, phisicking, and poultices, together with judicious bandaging, will frequently effect a radical cure, if you have an opportunity of getting a good



STRAIN OF BACK
SINew.

bargain of a horse in this state, you need not hesitate to buy him, unless the injury be very severe indeed, for it sometimes happens that the tendon is ruptured when a horse is said to have *broken down* (a case frequently occurring to young race-horses while at their speed); and, under these circumstances, I would not advise you to have anything to do with him, unless you wish to become master of a stallion or mare in such a state for the purpose of breeding.

The sheath of the tendon at the back part of the leg is frequently strained by over-exertion, or by being suddenly put on the stretch, and leaves considerable weakness in the part for a great length of time. It will be found to swell after work and become hot and tender. Such a state is, however, to be relieved by a high-heeled shoe, rest, and neatly applied bandages soaked in astringent lotions, after all symptoms of inflammation have passed away.

Wind-galls produce that puffy appearance so generally observed about the legs of a horse that has been hard-worked. Their nature is an increased secretion of the fluid that lubricates the tendons of the muscles. It is of the same description as the *synovia*, or *joint-oil*, as it is generally



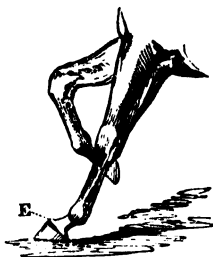
WIND-GALLS.

termed. With this, however, we have nothing to do, and I shall, therefore, content myself with stating, that although a sure symptom of hard-work, and in many instances of what is called a *gummy* leg—that is, one that is rather fleshy than sinewy—it is a blemish which never of itself interferes with a horse's action. At the same time, a horse with very bad wind-galls, on account of the cause from which they spring, will very frequently be found groggy either in the joints or feet, of which complaint I shall speak hereafter. It occasionally, though rarely, happens that a fluid tumour, similar in every respect to a wind-gall, occurs upon and below the knee. Here are situated some *bursæ*, or membranous pouches, which secrete the liquid contained in a wind-gall. I never knew but one horse with this extraordinary eye-sore, and he had a double tumour over the knee, each as large as an orange. He belonged to a friend of mine, who refused nearly two hundred guineas for him in spite of his being so very remarkably blemished. I have known horses fired for very large wind-galls, and completely cured; and really, where the operation is neatly performed, I prefer the blemish of the cure to that of the evil.

Ringbone is an osseous tumour about the coronet or upper part of the hoof, generally commencing in the side or quarter of the foot. It is very easily perceptible to the touch, and generally to the eye;

and as it is a cause of lameness which is not easily removed, even by the application of the actual cautery, which of course must leave a serious blemish, it is a disease which renders a horse of very little value. A disease similar to ringbone also sometimes appears at the upper part of the small pastern bone, about two inches above the coronet.

The lateral cartilages which are situated at the back part of either side of the foot, close upon the coronet, frequently become ossified.



RINGBONE.

Ossification of the back sinew is likewise very easily distinguished. In pressing upon a sound back sinew with the thumb and two first fingers from above downwards, it should feel like a very tense cord, giving way slightly under the pressure applied to it, but springing back to its natural situation the moment that pressure is removed. When the sinew is ossified, of course this elasticity disappears, and I need hardly describe to any one gifted with the least sense of touch the different sensation produced by handling a sinewy or a bony sub-

stance. An ossification of the back sinew may go on for some time without producing lameness, but, as it is almost sure to do so eventually, no horse having this disease, even in an incipient state, can be considered sound, although his action may be perfectly free and good.

A speedy-cut is caused by a horse either in his trot or gallop striking one leg with the foot of the other. Where a horse hits his legs about the pastern-joint, he is simply said to *cut before*, and the injury so received is not considered a speedy-cut, as it more frequently depends on bad shoeing than on any other cause. But a horse, while going at a moderate rate, may move perfectly well and not touch either leg in any part; whereas, on increasing his pace, he may be found to cut one leg either just under the knee, or a little lower down. Horses with this habit are extremely dangerous to ride, for the injured part becomes so excessively tender, that on striking it they sometimes drop to the ground as though they were shot. A speedy-cut invariably leaves a mark, and frequently a swelling, which is extremely sensitive, by which it may be recognised. A horse with this fault may, however, be kept either in a stable altogether, or only walked out to exercise until the sore of the speedy-cut be healed, and the mark it leaves, if

not of old standing, obliterated. The only way then to determine if he cut about the legs is to force him to his speed, and if he do not absolutely *cut*, but you still suspect him of *brushing* one foot against the opposite leg, you may mark the inside of the hoof with chalk or lime, and, after riding him smartly, examine if the opposite leg have a recent white mark on any part of it. If so, it must be evidently caused by the chalk or lime you have used. I have known young horses with speedy-cuts whose action has subsequently so improved as to render them perfectly safe, and a friend of mine has one at this moment with a permanently enlarged knee from speedy-cut, that for the last two years has never touched a hair of either leg. Some people assert that very low condition will cause a horse to get into the habit of *speedy-cutting*, and that, on gaining flesh and strength, his action will alter and become free from fault. I am not prepared to deny this assertion, but should never purchase a horse with a speedy-cut myself in the expectation of getting rid of it by improving his condition. If a horse of this description be in other respects desirable, the effect of speedy-cutting may frequently be very greatly obviated by attention to shoeing, and by riding him in a boot. The inside of the foot should be rasped away as much as may be with propriety,

and the shoe should never quite reach to the edge of the sole, by which precaution the iron can never inflict a wound. A speedy-cut may occasion lameness where a horse is frequently in the habit of striking it.

CHAPTER IV.

I have now to speak of blemishes about the legs of various descriptions. Those most frequently met with are broken knees and marks of cauterisation. A badly broken knee never fails to leave a mark, and very generally some swelling, by which it is easily detected; but there are cases where the hurt received has been so slight that scarcely any scar is observable. In these last cases, however, the hair growing over the injured part is almost always slightly curled, and, where you observe this appearance, take up the horse's leg, bend the knee, and rub the hair back, when you will frequently be able to detect a scar which various applications, as ointments of different colors, and in some cases sticking-plaister may for the time have contributed to conceal. Some horses in falling may receive scars on the nose and some part of the head; but these are such inveterate tumblers as generally to leave pretty evident proofs of their propensity to kiss Mother Earth without giving you much trouble to seek for them. This fault sometimes becomes a habit, and may

arise from a bad formation of the shoulders and fore legs, from bad riding, bad action, or tender feet ; but when a horse breaks his knees purely by accident, of course an endless variety of causes may produce such a catastrophe. You must remark, when the scar is very slight, and you disregard it, whether the horse be weak and groggy on his fore legs—that is, if the knees and fetlocks appear to bend and give way under him, and if his legs be puffy and shew much signs of work. You must then examine the formation of the foot, and look also if he have had a bad thrush (of which I shall speak presently), rotten frogs, or any other sign of tender feet, which may have occasioned him to tumble. Examine afterwards his action, and see if there be anything in that to account for his fall ; and wherever you find the fault to exist, attribute the accident to that and that only, without paying the very slightest regard to the account which the dealer will never fail to give of it, provided he find that he cannot bully you into the belief that the horse has never broken his knees at all.

Whenever you find fault with a horse, a dealer's first care is to put forward an opinion completely opposite to yours, to see if you know anything about the matter. Thus, if you say, " I think this horse turns his toes *in*, and is hollow-backed ;"

it is ten to one but the reply is, "Turns 'em *in*, do you? well *I* thinks now, if anything, he turns 'em *out*; and as for being hollow-backed, he is no more hollow-backed than you are; but his rump's so precious covered with muscle that he may seem so to them that isn't a judge." Of course, if you are not in the habit of dealing with these gentry, you think a horse-jockey's judgment must be as good as your own, and you are therefore disposed to give way a little; so that a medium being drawn between the two opinions, the horse neither turns his toes in nor out, but stands pretty straight; and if his back appear a little hollow, it is not sufficiently so to be considered a fault. So with respect to broken knees, the accounts of the accident are various. If you want the horse for harness or the road, "he is a mettlesome nag, and struck his knee agin the manger while he was being cleaned:" if for a hunter, "he jist touched the top of a turnpike gate, or a six-feet wall, that Jem Somebody, when he was drunk, rid him over at night for a wager." If you really are a good judge of a horse, never ask any questions at all respecting one you are examining; and if the dealer perceive that you go scientifically to work in this matter, you will have the full history of your nag respecting every blemish and fault which you appear to criticise without the

trouble of asking anything about him. Having heard, but at the same time paid no attention to the owner's oratory, which flows as glibly as that of a raree-showman, draw your own conclusions respecting the horse, and either say he will not suit you, or, if you are in doubt upon that point, take care to have a good trial ere you put him into your own stable.

Of the marks left by the actual cautery I need say but little; for though the operation of firing is so carefully, and at the same time occasionally so slightly, performed as not to leave any very perceptible trace (particularly where the cauterized part is well covered over by the hair from above), yet a sufficient blemish will invariably result from the application of a hot iron, to be easily detected with a very little inspection of the part. Many horses fired for a variety of causes are by this operation rendered perfectly sound; but, in such instances, the blemish is not alone to be taken into consideration; you must observe narrowly for what disease a horse has been fired, and then judge whether, though sound on trial, he is likely to remain so on being brought into the work for which you require him. Experience alone can enable you to form anything like a correct judgment on this point; but it is as well to remember, that, in the modern practice of Veterinary Surgery,

the actual cautery is only resorted to after all minor means of cure have failed ; and, therefore, a fired horse may very fairly be set down as having, at one time or another, been the subject of some disease, or accident, of a grave nature. Formerly great numbers of horses were fired for complaints which other remedies of a less powerful nature have since been found of sufficient efficacy to remove ; indeed, so far was this practice carried, that many young racers used to have a hot iron run round the hocks with a view to tightening the ligaments and strengthening the joints. It is almost needless to say that such a method of counteracting Nature in her work is now never resorted to, unless there be some actual disease going on which imperiously demands the application of a remedy which only cures by disfiguring. If a horse be fired across the back sinews, he has probably either strained them desperately, or has been stubbed there while hunting, or met with some other accident productive of an enlargement which nothing short of the hot iron could reduce. If fired just above the coronet, he has probably had some long-continued lameness of the foot, and cauterisation has been practised as a *pis-aller*—that is, it has been tried as offering a *chance* of a cure. I know at this moment a favourite old hunter that for the last four or five

seasons has been regularly fired every year for foot-lameness, and the operation invariably cures him for a time, but his soundness never lasts long. I have likewise seen a mare fired across the knee for the purpose of reducing a very large callus, the result of a severe fall. In this case the iron has evidently not been applied for any disease, but merely on account of an accident which has occasioned a greater disfigurement than is likely to result from the application of a hot iron.

The first question to ask yourself on examining such horses is, "for what purpose are they required?" If for slow farm-work on soft ground, they may possibly do very well, even though it may be doubtful if their legs will stand battering on the road. In such cases, a very good and serviceable horse, with a bad blemish, may do you as much work as an unscarred one that will cost ten times more money; therefore no rule can be laid down for estimating the value of such an animal, excepting that you may always safely bid but a very small sum for a fired horse, especially if he appear to have been cauterised for any disease.

Those who, after reading these remarks, may chance to be asked a very long sum for a fired horse will probably think the seller either a confounded rogue, or suppose that I know very little

about the value of horses thus blemished : but it must be remembered, that I speak of the generality of horses, and not of those that have acquired, in spite of the iron, a great reputation as hunters, racers, or steeple-chasers. For instance, Moonraker, Vivian, Railroad, and many other horses used for the purpose of running Steeple-chases, have all been badly fired, but yet would in this state have fetched probably from two to five hundred guineas each. These instances are exceptions to the general rule ; and it should not be forgotten that such horses are not frequently used, but are nursed up for one or two great occasions for the purposes of gambling, and whether they go lame or not for a time after running is not taken into consideration.

Among other blemishes about the fore legs will, I believe, be found one called " Rats'-tails." I cannot say that I have myself ever noticed this complaint ; but where it exists, its nature is that of some eruption, probably mangy, which destroys the hair in stripes along the leg, and is somewhat similar in appearance to the tail of a rat.

Before I quit the subject of blemishes, I must not omit to mention one which it is of essential importance not to pass over. You will occasionally perceive the mark of a cut in the horse's leg,

some inches in length, and a little behind and parallel to the shank-bone just below or above the pastern-joint. Where you see this, you may be pretty sure that the horse has been *nerved*, or, as some call it, *unnerved*—an operation which consists in cutting out a portion of the principal nerve of the leg for the purpose of destroying the sensation of the foot in cases of acute lameness of that part arising from incurable disease. In order to discover if you are right, run a pin into the skin above the coronet, and if the horse do not manifest any great degree of sensibility, set him down as having been nerved. You are of course not justified in doing this without very strong cause of suspicion, but the scar I have mentioned in fact is one. I have myself seen but very few nerved horses, but should suppose that the pastern-joint and foot must be colder than natural: however, as I believe this is sometimes the case in rheumatism, the criterion is not one singly to be relied on. Nerved horses sometimes work well for years; at others the hoof perishes and drops off: therefore have *nothing whatever* to do with a horse that has undergone this operation, and you will save yourself the probable chance of having to rue your bargain.

CHAPTER V.

WE come now to the consideration of the foot—a most important point, and one requiring considerable scrutiny. In the first place, on examining a horse's foot, after having ascertained its position to be correct, remark if in front or at the sides the hoof be marked with circular depressions, running parallel to the coronet; if so, fever of the foot, as severe inflammation of this part is sometimes called, has probably at one time or other taken place. This is not a sufficient cause of itself alone for rejecting a horse, but should lead you to pay particular attention in investigating the different points to be attended to in the examination of the foot. Secondly, look if you can perceive any difference in the size of the feet, viewed from before; and afterwards, prior to lifting the leg, feel if the hoofs be perfectly and equally cool, and free from fissures running perpendicularly from the coronet towards the toe. Having satisfied yourself on these points, you may proceed to the examination of the sole and

frog. First making the horse raise his leg, by tapping slightly with your hand on the back of the pastern, take hold of the hoof by letting the toe rest in your hand, and turn up the sole. This part, to be well formed, should describe with its rim or outer edge, as nearly as possible, three-fourths of a circle. The more the foot deviates from this form, the nearer does it approximate to that state called "a donkey hoof," becoming narrow, elongated, and contracted towards the heel and in the quarters, and consequently in very many cases incapable of affording free scope for the development of the internal parts of the hoof. These internal parts are of the very greatest consequence, being constituted of bones forming a joint, with ligaments and soft parts whose structure and functions are easily deranged. The sole itself should be concave, and the more it approaches to flatness, the more tender is the foot, as it must be more liable to concussion from its contact with hard substances. It is wonderful how differently horses with flattish soles will go when ridden on turf or soft ground compared with their action on the road. This flat state of the hoof too is an indication that the internal parts, being elsewhere compressed, have acquired room by pressing down the sole, which, from this cause, is sometimes rendered actually convex, or *pummiced*, as it is

called. The frog, which is at the back part of the sole, and projects inwards and forwards, somewhat in the shape of the letter V, should project a little beyond the hoof, but scarcely so deep as the shoe, so as to take off the concussion produced by striking upon hard substances, and should be of a spongy, elastic nature to admit of the spreading of the heel, by which sufficient room is allowed for the expansion and play of internal parts. In examining the sole and frog, press firmly upon them with your thumb, and you will thus perceive if the first be very thin, and if either be particularly sensitive. A sole that appears shelly, that is, easily cracking and chipping off, is a fault; and the same remark will apply to the hoof generally. Nevertheless, this state may be *generated* by suffering the sole to grow for a long period without being pared, which operation will of itself remove the tendency to shelliness. If the foot be properly pared, the sole should always be cut away so as to allow of its yielding slightly to strong pressure, by which freedom of action is allowed to the coffin-bone and internal parts of the foot generally. A shelly state of the hoof may be induced by neglect on the part of those entrusted with the care of the horse, and a dry hoof, shewing a disposition to crack and split, very frequently becomes so from inattention. The

proper mode of preventing and of curing a hoof of this description will be noticed when treating of stable management. When you find a horse's hoof in this dry and brittle state, look narrowly for those cracks or fissures about the coronet or elsewhere (commonly on the inner quarter) to which I have already alluded, and which are termed "sand cracks." Besides indicating a very bad state of the hoof, they are extremely difficult to cure, and the fissure, when occupying the greater length of the foot, and particularly when involving the coronet, is seldom closed up in less than some months, during which period the horse is for the most part lame, and unfit to do hard work. In inspecting the shell of the foot, it is not sufficient merely to pass your hand round it, in the expectation of *feeling* a sand-crack, should there be one; for, generally speaking, those dealers who wish to pass off a horse with this complaint as sound are in the habit of filling the crack with melted resin, which is afterwards scraped so as to be perfectly even with the horn; so that your hand will pass over the diseased part without feeling any difference between it and the rest of the hoof. If the foot be taken up and carefully inspected, the resin will be detected, even though a coating of tar and oil be generally rubbed over the hoof to make it of a uniform appearance.

Sometimes a little matter may be seen issuing from a small opening about the coronet. This frequently arises from a severe injury of the foot, either by pricks in shoeing, stubs, or similar causes, and denotes the formation of pus within the foot which has made its way out through the soft parts. The complaint is called a *quittor*, and produces lameness, which is frequently protracted for a considerable period.

Having examined the state of the horny part of the foot, your next care must be to inspect the frog. This is the seat of the disease called "the thrush," to which I have already adverted. Where the feet have not been particularly well attended to, they are extremely liable to this complaint; but a person in the habit of examining a horse's foot will immediately detect it by its smell, for it has an uncommonly rank and fetid odour. The best way of discovering it is to press with both your thumbs upon the heel above the frog, when, if the thrush be a bad one, you will perceive a sort of matter oozing from the cleft in the frog, or from sinuses which perforate it. So many caustic applications, however, are used for drying up a thrush, that, even where a bad one exists, the appearance of matter on pressure may be wanting. You must then learn to judge of its actual existence both by the smell of the part, and

also by carefully remarking if any portion of the frog be destroyed by disease; in which case you may fairly infer the existence either of a thrush, or of what is termed "a cancrous frog." In some cases nearly the whole of the frog is eaten away, and its ragged edges may alone remain. Proper applications and due attention may enable you to remedy this state of the foot; but, unless you are well aware of its precise nature, and of the means of cure to be adopted, you may produce internal inflammation of the foot by suddenly stopping the discharge, and thereby do great mischief. A horse in this state, therefore, is generally a bad bargain, for the diseased part is very tender, and consequently he never steps with confidence, and is liable to fall suddenly if a sharp stone touch his frog. I had once the best little Irish hack I ever crossed, who came down in an instant from a flint sticking into a thrush of the off-foot. He broke both his knees, and rather alarmed a friend of mine who was riding him. It is my maxim when a thing is done not to make any lamentations about it, since it is then past recalling, but to manage it in the best way I can; and though I should have been greatly mortified had I known my little horse was destined to break his knees, still, after they had been broken, I forthwith considered that I had bought a broken-knee'd

horse, and was to do the best I could with him. I soon cured his knees in a highly respectable manner, and, although not more than fourteen hands and a half in height, he turned out such a hunter that I was shortly after bid *by a farmer* ten pounds more than I had given for him before his accident, and he has since been sold for more money. This liability of horses with bad thrushes to fall, if the diseased part be pricked or bruised, renders them rather unsafe to ride; and yet, in spite of this fact, you very rarely find a person refuse to purchase a horse merely because he has a thrush, unless indeed it be an extremely bad one, and the frog be very rotten. The reason is this: in the first place, every one is apt to flatter himself he can cure a thrush; and in the next, if not cured, it can be remedied by shoeing the horse with leather soles, which guard his foot from injury. Altogether, then, this complaint is one which, if not in a very bad state, need not deter you from purchasing a horse good in other respects; but, at the same time, get something taken off his price on account of it, for many veterinary surgeons will not give a warranty of soundness with a horse who has thrushes.

When a thrushy horse is shod with leather, the foot should first be stopped with toe saturated with a composition made of tar and turpentine.

The latter being the greater stimulant of the two, its quantity should be increased according to the degree of action in the diseased part. Some people prefer shoes made with a thin iron sole to leather. Between the iron and the foot is inserted a lamb's wool pad (which any one may make by simply drying the skin of a newly-flayed lamb, and moistening the wool with a strong solution of alum water to prevent its separating from the skin). The wool, when cut to the form of the sole, forms an excellent pad for applying stopping of any kind to the feet, as it retains a great deal of moisture for a considerable time.

Corns are another foot evil to which many horses are extremely liable. They generally arise from pressure made by some portion of the shoe, and consequently are frequently not very perceptible unless the shoe be removed, especially where they are made very broad. Corns generally arise near the heel, therefore, whenever you perceive a more than usual portion of the foot cut away in this situation, you may suspect the existence of this complaint. As it is one, which, at any rate every now and then, will render a horse lame, it behoves you to watch carefully the action and motions of a horse having this complaint. You may frequently notice that a horse with a corn will rest the affected foot, and, instead of stand-

ing firmly on the ground, will raise the heel somewhat and stand upon the toe, thus denoting the existence of considerable tenderness of the part. A corn too, especially a bad one, will commonly cause a horse to shuffle in his gait, instead of putting his foot firmly to the ground ; and a judge of this species of action will, on seeing it, immediately be able to pronounce a horse to have this evil, more particularly if flat feet or other causes of tenderness are not to be descried. The safe plan is, therefore, to get the shoe taken off the suspected foot, and the corn, which is indicated by a reddish appearance of the hoof, will become visible. Do not buy a horse for the saddle that has bad corns ; they are a great grievance, are very seldom completely removed, and, moreover, constantly cripple a horse's action to such a degree as not only to render it extremely unpleasant to his rider, but frequently even dangerous, causing him to put the toe to the ground first, and thereby occasioning that worst of faults, stumbling.

Many people will tell you that corns are very easily cured, and that the application of a hot iron or some caustic preparation will infallibly remove them in a short period. If a man who has a horse in this state to sell endeavours to persuade you of this, I need hardly say that his having

neglected to put so simple a practice into execution with success must at once convince you of the fallibility of the plan, since by eradicating the disease the value of the horse would have been greatly increased. Once more, judge for yourself, and do not allow your reason to be led astray by the assertions of an interested person. When a man who knows but little about a horse enters a dealer's yard with money in his pocket, and a wish to buy a horse, the chances are greatly in favour of his coming out with very little cash, and a nag, from which he may, if he please, glean a great deal of experience; and this is the only "flattering unction he can lay to his soul."

I have already spoken of the proper formation of the foot of the horse, and the nearer it approaches to this shape, the better, *cæteris paribus*, will it be. Now, having been told this, you will be surprised to learn, that, in consequence of early and perhaps careless shoeing, hard work, and other causes, not one horse's foot in fifty actually presents the appearance it would do if left entirely to Nature. It is, therefore, a most difficult affair for a novice to decide, from what he may have read, whether a foot, deviating perhaps considerably from the circular form, be really in a healthy state or not. I shall, therefore, proceed to describe, as well as I am able, the ap-

pearance of those feet which may be trusted, albeit differing widely from the shape which Nature has assigned them.

The changes of shape which a horse's foot undergoes are very frequently so gradual that Nature effects at the same time a corresponding change in the internal parts by which they adapt themselves to the horny substance which impedes their full development; and thus it not uncommonly happens that a horse will go perfectly sound and well upon a foot which, in appearance, is not at all in proportion to his leg. The feet of such horses are narrow and elongated; and provided they do not assume this form in a very great degree, and be not contracted at the heel, they may be perfectly safe and good: but this will rarely, if ever, be the case where the heel is deep, horny, and diminished in width. Again, a horse's foot may be very upright, like a mule's; but this may still not be an objection as simply regards the foot, but will decidedly be so if accompanying a very upright pastern. Of the flat foot I have already spoken, but in this case also there is a medium to be observed; for some horses with naturally flattish feet will, if they be sound and hard, go with perfect freedom, and a slight disposition to this shape may be, in some measure, remedied by adopting the practice of shoeing with

leather soles. Indeed it is a very good plan to shoe all such horses with a thick piece of leather interposed between the hoof and the iron, and cut out to the shape of the latter, so as not to cover the sole, but to diminish the jar upon the foot and leg during work. I have been in the habit of practising this method constantly during frosty weather, when the ground has been very hard, and have found it very beneficial. Indeed I am of opinion that it is a plan deserving of adoption with all horses and at all times. If the sole of the foot be tender, it should of course be protected by leather or some other substance; but where this is not the case, it will be sufficient to allow the leather only to cover the shoe, particularly if any disease of the frog require remedial applications.

A good judge of the shape of a horse's foot will often discover that it may be materially altered by care and attention to shoeing. The generality of blacksmiths will invariably drive eight nails into each shoe, and thus two of them, which may very readily and advantageously be dispensed with, must be driven so near the heel as to diminish its power of expansion, and give rise to contraction of that part. Again, a person not much in the habit of examining a horse's feet may consider some of them extremely ill-shaped from

their excessive length; whereas a more acute observer will possibly remark that a great portion of the length results from a redundance of horn having been left at the toe—a fault of the smith, which throws down many a horse—and, on ordering this part to be shortened, it is no uncommon thing to see a farrier knock off at one blow three quarters of an inch of horn, which should never have been suffered to acquire that length. Thus, then, by the study of these and other points of the horse, does a scientific man acquire experience which may be worth to him a great deal—for there is nothing where knowledge will go farther than in the purchase of a horse—since a really good one will always meet with a ready sale should you wish to part with him, whereas a brute may hang on your hands for ever, and be a daily source of discomfort to you into the bargain. I would recommend every man who wants to acquire a good idea of the proper formation of a horse's foot, to attend for some time at the forge of a shoeing-smith in full business, and then, for a few gallons of beer distributed among the men, he may pick up certain wrinkles that may afterwards repay him a thousand fold for his expenditure. The different modes of shoeing horses will also enable him, on perceiving any peculiarity in the formation of a horse's shoe, to discover the

reason why he has been shod in a manner differing from that usually adopted ; and this is a point of considerable importance, for some defects in the action of a horse, as cutting either before or behind, and forging, or striking the heel of the fore with the toe of the hind foot, may be either remedied, or at any rate diminished, by careful attention to shoeing. Thus a horse that cuts will be found to have the hoof left slightly projecting over the shoe on the inside, and perhaps made thicker on one side than on the other ; and if he have this fault in a great degree, there may be but one or two nails driven into the foot on the inner portion of the shoe, and an extra one on the outer to hold it on. When this is perceived, be sure that something wrong about the foot or action of the horse either actually exists or has existed. The paucity or total want of nails in any part of a shoe where they are usually placed may also arise from the horse having been pricked in that part, or from his having bruised his foot from having been ridden without a shoe, or from quittor, or, in short, from anything causing tenderness of the part, and therefore should immediately arouse the suspicions of a purchaser. Where you find a shoe nailed only on one side this precaution is generally adopted on account of a tendency to contraction on that side where nails are omitted.

Bar shoes also denote the presence of tenderness in some part, probably from bad corns or sand cracks ; and indeed every deviation from the common mode of shoeing must have been occasioned either by peculiar formation of the foot, as where a flat-footed horse is shod with very broad shoes to protect the sole—by faulty action, as in the case of speedy and other cuts—or by accidents, such as pricks, bruises, the application of a too hot shoe, and the like.

Leaving the examination of the body for the present, it may be as well to proceed to that of the hind legs and feet. With regard to the latter, all the observations which have been made respecting the fore feet will equally apply to the hind, though it may be remarked *en passant* that they are far less frequently diseased than the fore feet, owing possibly to the action of the fore being generally higher than that of the hind legs.

The defects which I have already noticed in my enumeration of those of the fore legs under the heads of splents, wind-galls, strains of the back sinews, enlargements from blows, &c., will also be found to exist in the legs of the hind parts ; but here splents are much more seldom met with than before. A horse, as I have already said, may cut behind about the fetlock joint, but no such thing as a speedy-cut is here to be met with.

To make up, however, for this, there are found two or three diseases about the hock-joint, which I shall now proceed to notice. These are, blood-spavins, bone-spavins, curbs, thorough-pins, capped-hocks, and cracked or greasy heels.

The blood-spavin (or as it is sometimes called bog-spavin) is a puffy elastic tumor on the inside of the hock: it is, in fact, neither more nor less than a wind-gall of the part, but situated under the large vein which



runs up the inside of the leg, BOG AND BLOOD SPAVIN. and which, being compressed by this enlargement, no longer allows the blood to flow freely through it. This impediment to the circulation not only increases the size of the tumor, but occasions a general torpor, and swelling in a slight degree of the limb in some cases, which offers an obstacle to its free action, and gives rise to very serious and incurable lameness. Should the enlargement be in its infancy, I would still recommend you not to have anything to do with any horse afflicted with this disease, unless he be destined for slow work; for much exertion will infallibly cause the tumor to increase, and with it of course the lameness attendant on it.

A bone-spavin is an increased growth of bone at the lower and most prominent part of the inside of the hock-joint. The well-formed hock gradually tapers down so as to unite almost imperceptibly with the soft parts ; but where a spavin exists, after passing your hand over the inside of the hock from above downwards, you will find a slight prominence at the most depending point, or rather your



BONE SPAVIN.

fingers will pass somewhat abruptly down a sort of ledge formed by the enlarged bone. When you think you feel this, examine both hocks from behind, and look narrowly if they be of an equal size. If you are not quite certain of the existence of spavin, look at the hocks from between the fore legs, and if one joint be spavined the difference in size of the two will be immediately apparent. It may happen that there may be a spavin in each ; but this is not so frequently the case that you will be likely to meet with them both until you are competent to detect them ; if so, you will be unlucky. When you are pretty sure you have detected a spavin, let the horse be first walked gently, and afterwards trotted with a loose rein, and if he go stiffly on the suspected

leg, you may be tolerably certain that your conjecture is right.

I would not advise any one to purchase a spavined horse for quick work, unless he were in every other respect very good, and his price low. In this case, as the firing iron will often effect a cure, he may be bought on speculation and the operation tried. A horse with bone-spavin should always be examined before he is exercised, for the stiffness which even a small spavin will occasion goes off after he has been at work some time, and he might then be considered sound. This apparent freedom from lameness is, however, deceitful; for exertion only increases the inflammation of the part, and the tendency to deposit bony matter; and, when the horse has been allowed to rest for some time, he comes out lamer than ever.

A curb is situated some inches below the point of the hock, and is an enlargement of the ligamentous bands of the part. On viewing the leg side-ways, you will perceive a gradual bowing out



CURB.

in this situation, and, if it be large or inflamed, lameness will be the result. Pass your hand over it, and if it feel hot and tender, you may set it

down as the cause of the lameness of the leg, if there be any. Now, if you have an opportunity of buying a good horse at a moderate sum on account of his being lame from a curb, you may do so without fear, for it is a complaint which will often yield to cold lotions, followed by stimulating liniments and blisters; and, should these fail, a hot iron run lightly over the part will, nine times out of ten, effect a lasting cure, and leave but little blemish: moreover the marks of cautery for this complaint seldom diminish the real value of a horse much, and you will thus be well mounted at little expense.

A thorough-pin is a soft, rounded swelling of greater or less dimensions, occurring just under the strong tendon which unites with the cap of the hock. It generally protrudes on both sides, and will swell out first on this side, then on that, with the motion of the horse. Occasionally where the coverings of the tumor yield more readily in one direction than another, it will protrude principally in that part. Its nature is similar to a wind-gall, and it is usually productive of some stiffness in the leg until exercise have produced absorption of the fluid it contains. Many people



THOROUGH-PIN.

think a thorough-pin of but little consequence; but, for my own part, I do not like them by any means, although I have known many horses of great value that have had them—one in particular, belonging to a friend of mine, for which a horse-dealer offered nearly two hundred guineas. A thorough-pin of tolerable size, in my opinion, materially detracts from the value of the best horse in other respects that can be met with. There is no cure for it that can be depended on, and hard work will generally cause it to become larger.

As for capped-hocks, they are scarcely to be called a complaint, and are of no consequence whatever, except they be very large and unsightly, or are produced by kicking. They consist of a swelling on the very point of the hock; and as this is a part which is very liable to come in contact with the bar of a gig or carriage when a horse sets to kicking, their presence should excite the suspicion of a purchaser who is looking for a harness horse.



CAPPED HOCKS.

The dealer of course has his story—"His man struck him with a pitchfork (not an unfrequent practice with an ill-tempered groom), or a horse kicked him, or a bar fell on him," &c. As I have already more than once re-

marked, pay no heed whatever to the account of an interested person, who will not stick at trifles to palm a vicious horse on you, but have him put in harness, and if he should kick there can be no mistake about the cause of his capped hocks; but if, on the other hand, he should happen to be in an amiable temper, look for the other signs of a vicious brute (respecting which I shall have something to say by and bye), and take notice if there be any reluctance shewn to harness him, or any particular precautions used in putting him to.

Greasy and cracked heels may be immediately detected by the swelling which accompanies them, by the roughness of the hair covering the affected part, and by the exudation which oozes from it. I have purposely omitted to say anything respecting cracked heels while speaking of the fore-legs, because this complaint occurs in almost every case behind. The reason of this is, that the hind feet being the farthest removed from the heart, the circulation of the blood is carried on there more sluggishly than elsewhere, and congestion is consequently more liable to ensue. A cracked heel presents always one and sometimes more fissures just in the bend of the foot behind the pastern or fetlock, from which escapes a stinking and tenacious discharge. Occasionally the whole leg

swells, and a considerable portion of it is involved in the disease, presenting an almost ulcerated surface, the ichor from which is extremely offensive. Very high living with little work will often engender this state; but it not unfrequently proceeds from a directly opposite cause, or is the result of constitutional habit of body. Thus, an ill-bred, gummy, sluggish brute is generally the subject of grease, and the complaint in such an animal is eradicated with great difficulty; therefore never buy a horse of this description: but a well-bred horse with cracked heels is not to be rejected on that account if he can be had for a certain sum, as a cracked heel may be cured by attention and care. Poultices while there is inflammation, moderate diet, and cleanliness are requisite; and afterwards some astringent lotion, with good hand rubbing night and morning, and a neatly-applied bandage, will set all right. Cracks in the heels are commonly produced by neglect. A horse in cold weather comes home hot and fatigued, and his groom immediately, to save himself trouble, sluices his legs over with cold water, nor takes the trouble to dry them. He is then led into a warm stable; excessive reaction comes on; the part swells, and is painful; and eventually the distended vessels relieve themselves by discharging the fluid of which I have spoken. The reverse of

this, or want of action in the part, will produce a similar result. Ulcers make their appearance about the heels, which are extremely difficult in some instances to heal on account of the constant motion of these parts; but for all this I would not reject a good horse because he happened to have cracked heels, for a cure will eventually be effected. I should not omit to mention that this disease occasions lameness, and that, in some instances, to a very considerable degree. It is a singular fact, that, if a horse have one white heel, that one will be affected sooner than any other, thus shewing that (as in almost every animal) white is a tender colour.

There is also another complaint generally affecting the hind-legs which must not be passed over in silence. This is called "string-halt," and consists of an increased action of one or both legs, which in trotting are suddenly, and as it were convulsively, drawn up towards the belly. The origin of this complaint is no doubt situated in the nerves supplying some of the muscles of the leg. Either there is a deficiency of nervous power in the muscles that extend the leg, or an irritation of the nerves supplying those whose action is to bend it. The principal seat of the injury has been said to exist in the spinal marrow, and there is no reason why such should not be the case in

some instances ; but the result might be the same were any portion of the nerves of the hind legs, springing from this source, in a diseased state.



STRING-HALT.

As, however, I do not pretend in these remarks to enter upon the causes and cure of those diseases to which the horse is liable, I shall content myself with pointing out the effects of disease without inquiring into its origin. String-halt then may be said to be a convulsive action of one or more legs, and is hardly to be overlooked by a tyro in horse-dealing where only one leg is affected : the action of this leg will be so totally different from that of the other, that it must immediately strike the most casual observer.

This complaint is almost invariably confined to

the hind-legs, and, for my own part, I have never in my life noticed it, except on two occasions, to occur before. These were in the case of a brewer's horse, which I saw several years ago in a dray, lifting one fore leg as high again as the other, and battering the ground with it at a tremendous rate; and I have since remarked a thorough-bred horse with similar action of one fore leg, with this curious exception, that it only occurred now and then—for instance, for five or ten paces in walking a few hundred yards. When both hind legs are slightly and similarly affected with string-halt, a horse has the appearance of having particularly good action behind; and as a dealer will not fail to be loud in his praises of this peculiar style of going, a raw hand may very readily be made to admire what is really a fault. If, however, the question should be asked whether he has not string-halt, the answer is ready cut and dried: “Yes, Sir, *I* should think he has—string-halt in all four legs; for *I* never seed a hoss that can pick 'em up like him. Vy, Sir, I'll bet a wager as I'll make him pick his teeth with his fore-feet if I takes him up with the curb.” Now as a horse with string-halt behind, and that can “pick his teeth” with his fore legs, must have pretty high action (which by the bye is very generally admired), his sale at a large sum is the na-

tural result; and his new master may afterwards find out that his action behind is a fault, and that he can not pick his teeth quite so cleverly as his owner's pocket. It must not be forgotten also that a horse with string-halt will not shew the complaint nearly so much after he has been exercised and has got warm as when he is first led out of his stable; consequently, if you think of purchasing a horse with this complaint, you should always see him when he is first backed, and not after he has been ridden for some time. This peculiar action of string-halt, although unsightly, and possibly arising from some nervous affection, is not really of any very serious detriment to a horse in his work. I have seen as good hunters with this complaint as any I have ever known; and a racer called "Guildford," who won several times, had it, I think, to a greater extent than any other horse that has ever fallen under my notice, as he absolutely kicked his belly, or very nearly so, at every step he took. The action of string-halt does not interfere much with a horse's gallop, and, therefore, is not of so much consequence in a hunter, if otherwise good, as in a hackney.

Having examined a horse you have an idea of buying thus far, you are next to proceed to consider and test the all-important point of the wind

and breathing generally. This is an affair requiring a good deal of experience and careful observation, and must not be done in a hurry. There are several different complaints affecting the air-passages with which it is absolutely necessary to be acquainted before you attempt to buy a horse on your own judgment. The principal of these are, "broken-wind," "roaring," "whistling," and "piping," to which I shall take the liberty of adding another, which I must denominate "gulping," as I know no other term by which I can better express it. I shall not attempt to offer any explanation of the cause of this extraordinary trick, which has never yet been noticed by any one, but have only to say, that I have met with two horses, that, on being ridden fast, appeared every now and then to give a sort of convulsive gulp, somewhat approaching to hiccough; and as neither of them was remarkable for good wind, it is not impossible that this singular noise may have been the precursor of some more serious evil. As I neither purchased the one nor the other, I cannot say whether they eventually turned out decidedly unsound in the wind; nor should I like to hazard the experiment of buying a horse with this habit, to call it by no worse name, at a sound price.

Dealers always judge of a horse's wind by the sound of the cough which they produce by pinch-

ing the windpipe just behind the jaw. If a horse, on being treated in this way, give one long shrill cough, his wind is supposed to be good; but if, on the other hand, his cough be short, hollow, easily excited by gently pressing the windpipe, and frequently repeated, he is set down, and justly, as having unsound lungs. With respect to the first criterion, however, there is this to be observed, that although it may not be a bad one to commence your diagnosis by, you should always make the horse cough yourself, and not trust to a dealer to do it, as these gentry, by forcibly compressing the sides of the larynx or windpipe with one hand and the forefinger of the other, frequently contrive that the horse shall cough while the windpipe is kept in this state, and the air, then rushing through a very small aperture, makes the shrill noise which is esteemed a sign of good wind. This, however, is not always to be done, and a broken-winded horse will, after all pressure is removed, continue to cough short—much in the way that a sheep with unsound lungs may be heard to cough on a cold night—and thus make his malady manifest. If, however, you should be satisfied with the noise made on coughing, proceed next to examine the motion of the flanks in breathing. If the horse's belly swell out, and then contract equably and regularly, his wind will

probably be found good ; but if, on inspiration, the retraction of the belly and flanks appears as it were to stop before it is completed, and then to be forcibly continued, the flanks being very much drawn in, and the borders of the serrated muscles of the ribs rendered very apparent, the horse is probably either absolutely broken-winded, or at least what is called " touched in the wind," which means a minor degree of the same complaint. A really broken-winded horse will generally make some noise like panting or blowing when ridden fast, but there are many horses that are slightly touched in the wind that are perfectly competent to do a good deal of work not requiring rapid motion. Mares that are broken-winded are said to be barren, therefore take care in buying a brood-mare that her lungs be perfectly sound. When you have examined the state of the wind in the manner I have pointed out, you may next proceed to determine whether your horse be a roarer, whistler, or piper. For this purpose place him against a wall, or one side of his stall, take hold of his bridle or headstall near his mouth, and hold his head high, then suddenly give him a smart punch in the ribs with your doubled fist, or strike him three or four times under the belly sharply with a stick, and if he gives a grunt at each blow, he is a roarer ; whereas, if, after jumping about

from the blows he receives, you hear him sobbing as it were, and drawing his breath quickly, the chance is he is a piper or whistler. Some people use these two terms synonymously, while others again employ them as denoting different degrees of the same complaint, distinguished only by the peculiarity of the noise made in each. I believe the sobbing horse to be the piper, and suppose him to be worse than the horse which merely seems to blow hard on going fast. Some horses have a trick of making a noise with their nostrils, like a very loud purring, at every stroke of their gallop. This must by no means be mistaken for whistling, which merely resembles, but in a greater degree, the very hard breathing of some people who *all but* snore in their sleep, or who have a violent cold in the head. Now you will occasionally find horses, that, from ossification of the cartilages at the top of the windpipe (arising possibly from this tube being constantly and violently compressed by dealers essaying their wind), or from the sensibility of these parts being greatly diminished, cannot be made to cough at all. Some roarers are of this kind, and where you find this to be the case, you must e'en trust to the other symptoms of unsound wind, and to a good rattling gallop, where you can get one, as a test of good or bad lungs. Roaring is not always a disease of the lungs, but

generally proceeds from some change in the structure of the windpipe, as distortions of that part, and constriction of some portion of the tube from permanent thickening of the lining membrane consequent upon inflammation. Hence numbers of horses turn roarers after having had the influenza or distemper, which has been so prevalent at certain seasons for some years, and not a few are rendered such by restraining the head by a tight bearing-rein. Sometimes a horse that roars in a very slight degree will not grunt on being struck ; in which case you must make a man gallop him smartly, and then pull him short up close to you without giving him time to recover his wind. On listening attentively you will soon be able to detect any impediment to his breathing freely. Some horses have been said to have been cured of roaring by keeping their heads constantly tied up very high ; but whether this be true or not I will not pretend to say. In a recent case of thickening of the lining membrane of the windpipe, I can conceive that such a mode of treatment, by disgorging the blood-vessels of the affected part, may be beneficial ; but as I believe that no remedy whatever has yet been found generally successful in this complaint, my advice is never to purchase a roarer in the hope of curing him. I have also heard of horses on whom the operation of tra-

cheotomy—which consists in making an artificial opening into the windpipe—has obviated the effects of roaring; but I believe these cases to be very rare, and their good effects probably greatly exaggerated, as most people are prone to laud whatever is extraordinary. Besides the very existence of such an opening exposes the horse to the danger of inhaling small and light substances, as hay-seeds, dust, &c., which, by irritating the lungs, may occasion a disease worse than that for which the operation was practised. It may not be amiss here to mention that a low dealer who sends a roarer up to auction, where they take them in on the morning of sale, will give him a quantity of shot mixed together with tallow, and this, extraordinary as it may appear, and difficult as it is to account for physiologically, will prevent the horse from shewing the usual symptoms of roaring for some hours, probably until the shot pass into the intestines.

I have now to notice another complaint, or trick, whichever it may be called, which is termed “crib-biting.” This is a most abominable habit, tending constantly to make a horse look poor and washy, and causing all his owner’s pains to end in disappointment. Veterinary surgeons are unanimously of opinion that, in crib-biting, a horse sucks in and swallows a vast quantity of wind, by

which he inflates the stomach and intestines. I confess I am not altogether prepared to subscribe to this opinion. A horse when crib-biting lays hold of his manger with his teeth, and, holding on by them, contracts the abdominal muscles, and makes a singular noise in his throat, which is supposed to be occasioned by his gulping down air; but it appears to me much more probable that wind is expelled by this manœuvre, and that the distention of the stomach by gas generated there through weakness of that organ, and consequent indigestion, is the primary cause of a habit by which the stomach is temporarily relieved of the oppression it experiences. I have mentioned this view of the matter to one or two members of the Veterinary College, whose objection to it has been, that, if my opinion were correct, a horse could not by crib-biting distend his intestines. To this argument I do not yield an assent; for if it be true that a crib-biter really fills his stomach and bowels with wind (which I cannot say I have ever witnessed, though I have frequently heard it asserted), I see no reason why a habit which tends to increase the weakness and irritability of the most sensitive viscus of the body—the stomach—may not produce an increased quantity of gas in it, which it is well known is secreted in an extremely short space of time, and thus account for that distention which is said to occur.

According to my view of the case (which I have entertained for many years), improper diet, or too great a quantity of food, or natural weakness of the intestines, are the origin of crib-biting; and unfortunately it is a habit which, once acquired, is extremely difficult of cure. There is no trick that annoys and displeases me so much as this. I am naturally prone to give a great deal of attention to horses, and to superintend everything that is done for them, the reward of which *surveillance* is that my horses have always been in good condition; but a determined crib-biter sets all your care at nought: you give him the best food, in small quantities at a time—you let him have salt to lick when he pleases—you perhaps give him tonics, and bestow upon him in clothing, grooming, bandaging, moderate exercise, and in all other ways that you can devise for his benefit, all the care and nursing that is lavished on a spoilt child; and, to reward your pains, you have a faint-hearted, tucked-up, washy devil, that looks, after a day's work, as though he belonged to some gipsy, and had just been taken off a common. Such a brute is really not worth his keep, unless you can cure him of his propensity, when his condition will probably improve.

Various remedies have been put in practice for the cure of crib-biting; among the most common of which is that of buckling a strap pretty tightly

round the throat, and to the under part of this strap is frequently affixed a sharp piece of iron, which pricks the horse on his laying hold of his manger. As this strap must, however, be removed when the horse is fed—a time when he is most apt to indulge in his habit—it is merely a preventive so long as it is used, but does not make him forego the trick altogether. The only effectual plan that I am aware of for curing a crib-biter, or rather *some* crib-biters, is the following :—Turn him into a loose box without any rack or manger, and if possible without any projection that he can possibly lay hold of, and put on him a muzzle made with thin but strong plates of iron round the mouth. A moveable manger must be brought in for him when he is fed ; but at this time there will be no necessity whatever for removing the muzzle, as he will very soon learn to take his food as well with it on as off. The bars of the muzzle must run from the nose towards the jaws, and not transversely, otherwise they will serve as a *point d'appui* for crib-biting. With some horses it is sufficient to cover the manger with a sheep-skin, the woolly side being uppermost, and to saturate it with tar-water. This expedient, although occasionally successful, will not avail in every case, and when it fails the muzzle is the only plan to be depended on.

Together with this mechanical contrivance, those remedies which tend to improve the tone of the stomach and bowels must be employed. I shall not here dilate upon these means of cure, but shall reserve what I have to say upon this subject for that portion of my *opusculum* wherein I shall treat of "Stable Management" in general.

There is yet another complaint to be noticed, which is termed *wind-sucking*. It is really allied to crib-biting, but is perhaps more difficult of cure, inasmuch as the habit does not require a fixed point to be laid hold of for its indulgence. A wind-sucker seems to snap at the air, and possibly swallows it, though of this I am not certain, as I have had very few opportunities of witnessing the complaint. Probably a strap round the neck—of itself an evil, as it produces irritation of the upper portion of the windpipe—or a wooden necklace might prevent the continuance of this habit.

Having conducted your examination of the horse you contemplate purchasing up to this point, carefully scrutinizing each part separately and leisurely, you are now to stand behind him and look well at the prominences of the hip bones. These you will occasionally find not precisely on a level; and although fractures and dislocations about these parts are extremely rare on account of their prodigious strength, yet lameness from various

causes, as blows, strains, &c., especially about the round-bone, which is situated a little posterior to the prominence of the hip, is by no means of unfrequent occurrence. This complaint will of course be more easily detected on putting the horse in motion ; but the wasting of the large muscles of the hind quarter on the affected side (from their being kept almost constantly at rest on account of the pain that any motion of this part occasions) is a symptom that must not be overlooked. Now the extent of a horse-dealer's veterinary acquirements is extremely limited, and it is ten to one but you will find, after passing your hand over any very suspicious-looking spot, that it smells strongly of some stimulating liniment, and on rubbing back the hair with your thumb the skin will present a slightly-blistered appearance. In other cases a few pieces of bran sticking to the horse's coat will demonstrate the recent application of a poultice, the necessity for which will be corroborated by the heat of the skin and other symptoms of inflammation. Whenever you discover that strong oils or liniments have been rubbed into any part, no matter where situated, be sure that something is wrong, or has recently been so, and have a thorough good trial before you are satisfied that these applications have really effected a cure, instead of having

patched up an old grievance "for the nonce." It is best also, in all these cases, to give the horse some good rattling exercise, and then to examine him again after he has been at rest for an hour or two. You will frequently discover that a high-mettled horse, although to all appearance sound, after having been at work for a short time, will come out of his stable either dead lame, or at least very feelingly, as though he feared to set his legs down to the ground. Sharp spurs and a tight rein soon take off this mincing gait, and make the poor devil almost unconscious of his usual pains from fear of the whip and spurs, and away he steps as though nothing were the matter with him; but when brought to a stand-still the case is very different; his shaking legs and weakened joints proclaim the worn-out cripple, the worst species of horse a man can have, and never worth the trouble of improving, unless he be young and the shaky state of his legs arise from too great an exertion at an improper age. Another effect of exercise is to reduce swellings of the legs or other parts, provided they be not in an inflammatory state. Motion produces an increased action of the absorbent vessels, by which effusion into the cellular parts is removed; and thus a horse, whose limbs appear perfectly fine after an hour's exercise, may be found with swollen and gummy legs, or a

large thorough-pin, after having been left at rest for some time.

The marks of bandages are easily detected, especially if they have been put on tightly ; but, although bandages are commonly used on legs that are liable to swell, yet their employment is no certain sign of any defect, as it is a common, and indeed a very excellent, plan to bandage every horse's legs whose work is at all severe. Nevertheless dealers are so well aware that any marks about the legs are viewed with suspicion, that they will not use bandages where they may be dispensed with, and, moreover, never apply them tightly except for infirm legs ; therefore, whenever you perceive the circular rings made by the turns of a closely-applied bandage, you may take it for granted that it has not been used without a cause.

If you have followed the advice I have already laid down for the examination of a horse, you will now have criticised almost all the parts on which it is necessary that you should found your opinion of him. Your work is, however, as yet only half completed ; for you have still to consider his general appearance, his state of condition, his constitution, his tricks, some habits and disorders which are chiefly manifested in the stable, and last, not least, his value. On this latter point it is impossible to give an opinion on paper by which

the judgment may be guided in the purchase of a horse. As I have already mentioned, a horse of absolutely no value whatever to one man may be fit for the work required of him by another, and consequently worth a certain sum ; so that to affix a just value upon any horse is perfectly out of the question. Setting aside fancy prices obtained by some dealers for hunters, first-rate carriage-horses, and smart Park nags, the only real method of obtaining a true knowledge of the *marketable* value of horses is to attend the different auctions and mark the prices that they fetch. You will then see at once how much dealers will bid for a spavined, a groggy, a blind, an old, and a lame horse, and will thus very soon be enabled to estimate every horse's just value within a few pounds. Fancy, however, goes so far in horse-dealing that you will often find men giving more money for a horse than you consider him worth : but these are the exceptions to the general rule ; and, moreover, many dealers have commissions to purchase horses for a certain purpose, and even if they do give five pounds more for a horse than they consider his value, provided they can make their employer give them another five pounds, what do they care ? Any man who is a good judge of horse-flesh can mount himself with hounds in first-rate style for from sixty to eighty guineas, and very frequently for

much less. Indeed there is no species of horse of which so much may be made as a hunter ; for I am firmly convinced that the value of fifteen out of twenty likely-looking horses for the field, and which are in the possession of men who either never hunt or who are timid horsemen, may be increased a hundred-fold by a bold and judicious rider with a stout heart and a light hand. No horse, as a young one, can be bought for a hunter, except by judging of his points and probable capabilities ; and when we see the enormous prices that very many of these animals are sold for, at from seven to twelve years old, we can easily conceive how dealers of good character, who will not sell a bad horse, and very seldom have a moderate-priced one in their stable, must thrive upon their knowledge of a young one. Such is the fancy with some men of fortune for horses that will suit them, that there is scarcely any rational limit to the sum they will give for a good horse ; in exemplification of which fact I may mention having seen some years back a horse of Mr. Gully's called Scroggins, a punchy, thick, heavy beast, about fifteen hands high, and looking fit to draw a four-wheeled chaise, sold at Tattersall's for four hundred and thirty guineas, although he was at that time eighteen years old !

Having thus digressed somewhat from the immediate purport of my subject—the examination

of a horse—I shall conclude the chief of my remarks upon this head by advising you to feel the hide over the ribs, and try if it move freely over them. If the skin appear tight and unyielding, the horse is said to be *hide-bound*; and this is a very common sign of internal disease of some kind, or of general bad health. The coat should next engage your attention. A soft glossy coat, which lies well down, instead of *staring*, to use a common phrase, is a symptom of good health and sound constitution, and shews that a horse is thriving. On the other hand, a rough, ragged, and broken coat indicates want of condition, even if a horse appear fat. No doubt a half-starved brute, kept either at straw-yard or in a very cold stable, cannot be expected to have a very fine coat; but such horses are seldom exhibited for sale, and therefore, when you meet with such a one, you may fairly suspect that his state is owing to some constitutional defect, unless you are acquainted with his previous history.

During your examination never allow the dealer's man to hold the horse's head high and make him place his fore-legs well in advance upon rising ground. I shall notice this part of my subject more particularly when I come to speak of the usual methods adopted by low dealers for the purpose of getting rid of their horses. In the mean

time suffice it to say, that, whenever you find a horse shewn to you in this fashion, take the bridle quietly out of the man's hand, lead the horse yourself to a level piece of ground, and let him stand there with a perfectly loose rein, so that his head may be quite at liberty. A horse that is shook on his legs will then immediately shew his grogginess; the knees will be bent more or less, the legs shaky and tremulous, and the heels not set firmly on the ground. The pastern joints too, if the horse have done much work, and frequently the fetlocks of the hind-legs, will be seen to bend and become relaxed as though the horse required to ease them as much as possible, and the elasticity of the tendons and ligaments of those parts were greatly diminished. The position of a groggy horse, when left to himself, will be generally that of leaning over the fore-legs, the feet of which are farther under the belly than the upper part of the leg, and the whole limb describing somewhat of a curve, of which the knees are the most prominent part. Some people have given the name of *chest-founder* to this state of the fore-legs, where a horse is incapable of putting them freely out, and shuffles in his gait. The term is in this case used very erroneously, and the meaning of it really not understood by those who employ it. If there be in reality such a complaint as chest-founder, I

take it it should be applied to a rheumatic affection of the muscles about the chest, which cramps their action and diminishes the stride of a horse, but has nothing to do with his legs except secondarily. If I am wrong in this opinion, I cannot at any rate err in recommending you never to buy a horse for the road or field whose action appears confined and *stumpy*, from whatever cause this defect may arise. A lively, free, and good stepper is a delight to his rider; whereas no man ever crosses a short-going, puddling devil without having sundry unpleasant misgivings as to the result, and not a very agreeable perspective of one or more purls, the upshot of which he leaves to chance and his own activity.

And now, having run over the chief points requiring attention in the examination of a horse, it may be as well, before we proceed to notice those defects which are principally to be observed in the stable, and those which declare themselves on trial, to say a few words respecting action.

CHAPTER VI.

ON ACTION.

IN the different paces of a walk, trot, canter, and gallop, without good action a horse is worthless for quick work, as well as dangerous, although he may do very well in a cart or at plough.

In choosing a horse, take care never on any account to purchase one whose action is at all faulty, more especially if required for the saddle. A horse with bad action is ever a torment to his rider; whereas the exhilarating feeling and elasticity of spirits that are experienced in riding a springy and active horse amply repay the owner for all the care and attention he can bestow upon him.

It is rather a difficult matter to explain clearly of what really good action consists; for the different shades between bad and superior action are so numerous, and moreover depend so much upon taste, that a description of them would of itself go far towards filling a moderate-sized volume.

The principal points to be attended to in criti-

cising the action of a horse are these: Firstly, in *walking*, the knee should be moderately bent, sufficiently so to raise the foot clear above any ordinary obstacle, as stones, &c. On setting the foot down, it should fall flat, and not touch the ground first with the toe. Those horses indeed that bring the heel down first are considered the safest; but although this sort of action may be easily seen in trotting, it is but seldom noticeable in the walk. Secondly, the legs should be put *straight* out, and be raised in like manner; that is to say, the toes should neither be turned outwards nor inwards, nor the foot describe a portion of a circle, and exhibit the sole to a person standing on one side of the horse. Thirdly, in a small compact horse, the walk should be sharp, active, and springy; in a more lengthy and larger horse, the stride should make up for the want of quickness which such animals usually shew, their action being generally more stately than that of the hack. It must, however, be remembered that every horse, be he hack, hunter, or roadster, should step freely out. A mincing, shuffling gait, that appears in some measure to proceed from a wriggling of the body, is a pretty good sign either of badly-formed shoulders, old sprains, or (which is most common) of tender and contracted feet. In walking, a horse should carry his head erect, and appear to

spring from the hind legs, the feet of which should nearly be placed in the marks produced by the fore-feet; although very wide-hipped horses will occasionally place the hind-feet to the outside of these marks—a peculiarity which is not to be objected to, inasmuch as horses thus formed are commonly endowed with very great power in the hind-quarters. The hind-legs should be freely bent, picked up sharply, and carried forward under the belly. A horse that seems to drag the hind-legs, instead of lifting them cleverly, will seldom be found to possess much power behind, and, though he may be made to do for harness, will never turn out a good jumper or prove a smart hack.

In *trotting* it is very much the fashion to admire those horses that bend the knee very much and raise the leg high. These are generally termed *clamberers*, from their action being such as would enable them to run up a ladder, if such a feat could be performed. This showy sort of pace may do very well for those who keep a horse for the mere purpose of an airing in the Park with a view to attract attention, and to whom the admiration of the cockney and the stripling, to say nothing of that of the fairer sex, is as the “breath of their nostrils.” It is their delight,

“*Monstrari digito prætereuntium ;*”

and provided this treat be secured, they care not what sort of animal they cross. A good, steady, hunting-looking horse walking along the Park is only eyed by the *cognoscenti* in horse-flesh, and by them probably without audible remark, consequently a nag of such unpretending merit will not suit your *Elégant*; but a hot, tightly-curbed clamberer, with his tail carried like that of a Dutch pug, that makes a constant "much ado about nothing," placing his feet down nearly in the spot whence he raised them, is just the beast to call forth the "My vinky, vot an oss!" of the Sunday-Park-ward importation from Whitechapel, and consequently in the London season will ensure plenty of customers, as more men buy horses from vanity than from any motive of utility. These horses are by dealers not inaptly called *Flat-catchers*.

Horses with high action of this description never cover much ground, and do as much work in going one mile as a horse of less shewy, but really better, action does in two. Moreover, the higher the action the greater will be the wear and tear of the legs; and on this account a high-stepper will soon show windgalls, bent legs, and other signs of work, even though the distance he goes daily may not be very great.

Occasionally a horse in trotting will be seen to bend one knee rather more than the other, and in

this case he will generally be found to have a thrush, corn, splent, or some other complaint in the leg or foot of that limb which is least raised. Much of the action of a horse at any pace depends upon his rider. Thus, a horse in walking, trotting, or galloping, may be made by a good horseman either to gather himself up closely, and as it were fight with his fore-legs, raising them high and throwing them out, or creep along in a totally different style. A really good walker, however, will always shew himself such, be he ridden in as slovenly a manner as may be; but a moderately good trotter may be made to step out and bend his knee in a manner very unlike his usual mode of going. This is done by the help of a sharp curb, spurs, and the pressure of the legs, combined with a nice hand that is capable of *feeling* a horse whenever he throws himself forward, and of giving him a *lift* when he seems to be relapsing into anything like a lack of spirit. A horse on being spurred naturally flies forward, but the curb at the same moment restraining him, he is thrown upon his haunches, and the action of the fore-legs gains in height what it loses in length. Horse-dealers and their men are of course well aware of this trick, and fail not to turn it to account. The leg that is farthest from a purchaser is usually employed for the purpose of spurring; but most

horses will sufficiently indicate to a close observer, by the switching of the tail, when he feels the rowels. It is said that a really good dealer's man understands whether a horse is to be ridden for purchase or sale, the two styles being totally different; and this is strictly true. I have seen a horse of my own ridden repeatedly at a bar by one of these gentry, and refuse the leap every time; but, on mounting him myself, he took it without hesitation, and would of course have done so before had I been going to buy instead of to exchange him. Be not, therefore, satisfied with seeing a dealer's man shew a horse, but let him be slowly trotted with a loose halter first, in order both to judge of his style of action, and also of his being free from lameness. If you can have him trotted gently down hill, so much the better, for, if he be lame, he will infallibly show his defect much more while going down a declivity than when on level ground.

In trotting, as in walking, it is essential that the foot be placed firmly and flatly on the ground. If the toe dig into the earth, the horse will always be liable to trip, and cannot be a safe goer. The wear of the shoe will indicate at once if the principal point of attrition be before or behind; although, as the toe is longest in contact with the ground on raising the foot, this part will almost invariably be somewhat sooner destroyed than the

rest of the shoe. Experience will, however, soon shew if it be unduly worn, and subsequent observation will enable you to detect the cause in faulty delivery of the feet.

Blood-horses—more particularly those that have been in training—are apt to step nearer to the ground than the half-bred horse. This they are taught to do, in order that they may gain in the length of their stride what would be wasted in high action. They are thus made to cover a larger extent of ground, and consequently to gallop quicker than they would be enabled to do were their action more rounded. These horses seldom make very pleasant road hackneys, their early habits causing them to raise the knee no higher than when stepping on perfectly level turf; but when a thorough-bred horse has not acquired this low gait, no animal is so delightful to ride, whether on the road or in the field. The action of this race of horses seems to be somewhat in extremes, for those which have shewy action generally are found to be particularly high steppers, and are consequently useless on the Turf. To conclude my remarks upon this pace, I will just observe, that when you find a horse lifting his legs very high, if you think you have, according to my recommendation, already well examined his eyes, do not deem it time thrown away to scrutinize

them yet a little more closely, for a horse with imperfect vision or totally blind is sure to be a high-stepper.

The *canter* is a pace which is so great a favorite with many people that every hackney well drilled to it is sure to find many admirers. A good judge of this pace does not like to see that species of canter so often noticed in a *very* tractable and quiet lady's horse ; a style of going in which you hear three distinct strokes of the feet upon the ground, which are repeated after a slight pause. This I call a three-legged canter. It is performed slowly, with the legs but little raised from the ground, and gives to the mind of a beholder the idea of an animated rocking-horse. Horses with this pace are nevertheless much esteemed by timid ladies, or those *of a certain age* who are fond of locomotion with the least possible expenditure of human exertion. Such horse-women and their cattle afford about as much pleasure to the eye of a spectator as do the jog-jog old gentlemen who stick out their legs, and suffer a pursy cob to roll under them at a pace as nearly approximating as may be to a walking trot, and imagine all the while that the sleepy animal they bestride is unequalled in pace, unrivalled in activity. That such offcasts of horsemanship and their steeds are well assorted I pretend not to deny ; and,

therefore, if you are on the look-out for an easy-going pad for an antiquated lady or gentleman, why the brute I have described is just the thing for your purpose, otherwise I had not noticed him; but if, on the other hand, you require a smart, cantering hack, either to ride to covert, on the road, or perchance to bear the lovely burthen of some young lady full of life and spirits, pick out one that throws himself well from the hind-legs, performing as it were a succession of easy leaps, and not one that raises himself up and lets himself down again much after the fashion of an Alderney cow when not stimulated to great exertion. A horse in cantering should be accustomed to lead with either leg as may be required, and should also be made to do so, in order that the wear and tear of both may be equal. Those horses that shift their legs while going, and alternately lead with one and the other, are generally strong and active, and consequently preferable for this reason, *cæteris paribus*.

It should not be forgotten that in the canter the hind-legs should be thrown well under the body, as in the other paces which I have already noticed. The canter is a minor gallop; and as in this latter pace it is requisite that a horse should be able to stretch himself well out, and cover a good quantity of ground, it will always be found

that horses with an oblique shoulder will be more likely to excel in galloping than those differently formed. Now although a hack may not be required to gallop, still this obliquity of the shoulder ensures a freedom of action before, which renders a horse thus shaped little liable to fall or make blunders, provided his feet and legs be good. Thus a sloping shoulder is as requisite in the cantering hackney as in the racer, and without it the motions of the fore-legs will generally be found cramped and defective.

I shall now proceed to say a few words respecting the *gallop*, the only remaining pace that requires to be noticed; for in this country we do not teach our horses to move both legs of the same side simultaneously, as they do in the West Indies (where horses with this action are much valued on account of the ease of their motions), and also in many parts of France, where a running *bidet* of this description may frequently be met with bestridden by a huge farmer, his legs enveloped in jack boots somewhat heavier than himself, and gracefully stuck out as far as possible from the sides of his pony, whose easy run-and-shuffle pace enables his rider to balance himself upon the seat of honour without the trouble of holding on by the knees.

In galloping there is an essential difference be-

tween the racer and the hunter or Park horse. The former, from being constantly ridden in a snaffle bridle, and having a very light boy on his back, who is probably not strong enough to hold him, acquires very generally a habit of going with the head carried low, and the consequence of this position (to which he is trained) is, that he does not raise his legs high, but stretches them out, thereby covering a greater quantity of ground in a given number of strides than the horse whose head, reined up or confined by the curb, is thereby driven into more dashing but less speedy action. Moreover the difference of the ground on which the racer and hunter have to perform necessarily occasions a dissimilarity in their style of going. The former is always trained on level turf, and is therefore unaccustomed to meet with obstacles in his track ; accordingly he gallops near the ground, fearless of any impediment to his progress. The latter, on the contrary, encounters every species of diversity of ground ; now he gallops on turf, and the next moment he is speeding across a ploughed field studded with innumerable flints, out of which he has to make his way over deep ridge and furrow, to find himself perhaps in a wood where stubs and roots beset his path at every step. Such a horse cannot fail in a short time to acquire a knack of lifting his limbs sufficiently

high to enable him to surmount the difficulties opposed to him, otherwise his rider runs a tolerable chance of kissing Mother Earth every time he mounts him; and therefore it is that, in purchasing a horse for the chase, you are not to expect or to desire in him the same style of gallop as in the racer. His action should be somewhat higher and more rounded; for were the hunter to stretch himself to the same extent as the racer, he would frequently be unable to recover himself when on difficult ground. Those horses whose feet may be heard to beat four distinct and rapid strokes on the ground at every stride are generally very strong in their gallop, and particularly safe at the same time. Their action is generally high, but they carry their rider with amazing power, and create a feeling of security which is sometimes wanting while skimming over a field well covered with mole-hills on a *daisy-cutter*.

A horse unusually high in his gallop must of course perform a greater degree of labour in getting over a certain quantity of ground than one whose action is less shewy. As in the lofty trotter, the legs soon give way from the battering endured by the high galloper, an animal well fitted to shew off in the Parks, but ill-calculated for steady work. For the road or the field, then, choose the horse whose gallop, without too great

exertion to himself, ensures you from danger and shews a good share of speed ; but in choosing a racer, pick out one that extends himself well, seems to go easily to himself, rather rises in the hind quarters (which should be lengthy), and appears to be formed somewhat on the model of the hare, that is to say, longer in the hind than in the fore-legs.

It must be understood that in these " Hints"—these "*επὶ πέρσεντα*"—to purchasers of horses, I do not pretend to go deeply into all the points, properties, or defects of the animal on which I write, otherwise I might dilate very considerably on the formation proper to the racer; but as a vast deal of the most useful discrimination is only to be acquired by experience, and no man ought to wish to purchase a horse for the Turf on his own judgment until it be matured in that school, I would recommend every one desirous of becoming the owner of a Plate-horse either to be well acquainted with his performances in public previous to purchasing him, or, if he have never yet run, to obtain if possible a trial of him with some known horse, rather than choose him for mere symmetry. A racer is never merely prized for his beauty. He is a machine by which money is to be won; and be he the ugliest animal ever foaled, provided he can go faster than most others of his

breed, he will be more valued than the handsomest blood-horse in the world without the necessary quality of speed. With hacks and harness-horses this is not the case. There we want beauty combined with good and often with shewy action ; but a fast racer or a splendid fencer of enduring powers will fetch their price despite the want of it.

Some horses in galloping will throw the hind-legs so wide and so forward as to be before and outside the fore-legs. This species of action is certainly faulty, as it is often the cause of over-reach and bruises of the heels. In a trot this kind of action seldom occasions the above injuries ; but in the hurry of a fast gallop, when a horse too is very frequently thrown out of the evenness of his pace by the application of the spurs at a wrong moment, such accidents will occasionally occur. Nevertheless they are seldom of such moment as to lead you to reject an otherwise good horse on account of this peculiarity in his action, which I have already elsewhere said is usually found in horses endowed with considerable strength in the hind-quarters.

I have now concluded all the remarks that at present occur to me on the subject of action, and shall therefore only add, that, when buying a horse, you will find your advantage in never

choosing one that in any pace appears to drag his hind-legs after him instead of throwing them freely forwards. In the walk, trot, or gallop, this springy action behind is absolutely indispensable. Besides denoting strength and muscularity, it both looks well and gives comfort to the rider. If you find fault with the want of action in a horse's hind-legs, a dealer will be sure to reply, "Oh! never mind the *hind-legs*, Sir; if he moves his *fore-legs* well, the others must follow." This is a truism which no one will dispute; but, since they are to follow, let them do so handsomely and with vigour. I have already remarked that a sore back may cause faulty action of the hind legs.

One word more respecting strength in a horse generally. You will hear every one talking of a horse's *bone*, but no mention is ever made of his *muscles*. Now bones are of themselves incapable of any motion whatever; they are merely the fixed points to which the muscles, the active agents of motion, are attached. The greater the expanse of bone in those situations to which muscles are affixed, the greater room will there consequently be for their attachment to those parts; and hence the opinion that large bones beget large muscles. This, however, is by no means a *sequitur*, and consequently I would recommend you never to be simply satisfied with the mere size of a horse's

bones, unless they be covered by well-developed muscles. Those parts to which are affixed strong ligamentous expansions, as the knees, pasterns, and hocks, should never be small; but too much stress is generally laid upon the necessity of large bone below the knee, a point of no great consequence, unless the size of this part be disproportioned to others.

And now, having touched upon most of those points to be first noticed in looking over a horse, let us have him put quietly into his stall, and proceed to examine him a little in the stable, where we may peradventure, by watching him, discover some fault or other which must not be lightly passed over.

CHAPTER VII.

IF a horse have any tricks or defects discoverable in the stable, you may be quite sure that, if you proceed to observe him there immediately after he is led into his stall, the dealer or his satellites will not allow him to rest a moment, but will keep him constantly on the fret, either by cracking a whip, speaking sharply, or by going up to him every now and then under the pretence of altering his clothes, tightening his head-stall or roller, or by some similar manœuvre. Your best plan, therefore, is to appear not to wish to pay any regard to the horse you have an idea of purchasing, but look at another, and order him to be led out. While this second horse is undergoing the different operations of having his mane and tail combed out, his posteriors titillated by the enlivening administration of a small piece of ginger, and his head decorated with a well pipe-clayed bridle, keep your eye upon the first horse, and try if you can detect any of the following defects or bad symptoms about him.

I have already said that the horse that vents frequently is sure to have bad digestion and weak bowels. It is in the stable that you will have the best opportunity of noticing this peculiarity. Here also you will have perhaps the only chance of discovering a crib-biter, which may be done, first, by examining the manger in order to detect the marks of the teeth; and, secondly, by remarking if the horse attempt to lay hold of it: I say *attempt*, because his master, by a slight wave of the whip, will most assuredly not allow him to crib outright in the presence of a customer. Marks of the teeth upon the rack or manger are not infallible signs of a crib-biter, because many a horse will lay hold of them while being cleaned, and moreover they may have been made by some other horse: still they are not to be overlooked.

Another trick, and a most wearying one, is also indulged in in the stall: it is called *weaving*, and consists in a constant rocking of the body from side to side, alternately resting first on one fore-leg, then on the other, without moving the hind-quarters. This habit frequently originates in tender feet, which at some period or other have been in a state of inflammation, causing the animal to shift from one leg to the other without intermission for the purpose of obtaining a short respite from pain. I have already remarked that some

horses with very good action will now and then, in a most unaccountable manner, drop as if they were shot, although no defect is to be observed either in the legs or feet: I have known two horses do this, *and they were both weavers*: consequently I consider it as a suspicious symptom of something being wrong, though this is by no means always the case. Nevertheless, as a horse with this fault is constantly working his fore-legs, instead of allowing them to rest, it is one which must render him less lively and less capable of exertion than he otherwise would be.

In the manger, unless it have been recently cleaned out, you may find proofs of the *quidder*, by observing small balls of half-masticated hay, which tenderness of the mouth or throat has prevented the animal from swallowing.

Should a horse be tender on one leg or foot, and not shew the defect after having been whipped or spurred, he will almost invariably extend the sore limb on being allowed to rest for a short time in his stall. Corns may not unfrequently be detected from this circumstance, although they may not occasion lameness during exercise; but whatever may be the cause which leads a horse to rest his leg, by extending it and sometimes bearing only on the toe, you may be quite sure that it is one which is scarcely likely to improve by work,

and the probability is that he is a screw nursed for sale.

The dung may generally be inspected in the stall, and may be found to contain bots, or horse-worms : if slimy and fetid, it will denote internal derangement of some kind or other ; if loose, sloppy, and offensive, it will be evidence of a soft and washy horse ; and if full of unmasticated oats, it will shew a greedy and voracious animal, or possibly some defect in the grinders or tenderness of the lining membrane of the mouth. The habit of bolting corn before it be properly chewed may be prevented, or the complaint about the mouth may probably admit of remedy ; but the washy horse will seldom, if ever, repay the care and attention he will require.

Many horses are given to bite or kick in the stable, and some indeed will previously pin you against the side of the stall. All decidedly vicious horses are to be carefully shunned ; for though when mounted they may be everything their rider may desire, and may learn to know and obey their master, nothing can compensate for the injuries a stranger may every now and then sustain from these brutes. One warning of vice may be taken from the *hare-eye*, which is laterally prominent, and with which a horse is constantly looking behind him for the purpose of saluting any one who approaches him

with his heels. Another may be gleaned, from observing that a horse's hocks are scarred and perhaps capped ; and a third, from the mark of a strap buckled above the hock for the purpose of preventing a kicker from indulging in that pleasing pastime.

Some horses, when their clothes are stripped off and the saddle is brought near them, will begin to dung, and will repeatedly do so while the girths are being drawn and other preparations made for riding them. When you see this, you may almost take it for granted that you have lighted upon a hot, fiery, fretful brute, very spicey for a short time, but capable of performing but little work, and that at long intervals.

These are almost the only stable tricks which are worth noticing, and by paying attention to them, much of the character and disposition of a horse may frequently be learnt. The other tricks of shying, rearing, bolting, jibbing, and the defects of hard mouth, boring on the hand, stumbling, tripping, and occasionally lying down, *cum multis aliis*, are best detected on trial ; and therefore it is always advisable to take as little for granted and as little from report as possible, and to form your opinion by riding or driving (or both) every horse before you pay your money for him.

I remember some years ago a horse called

"Solicitor," that was sold and resold at the hammer a great number of times, always at a very low price to a dealer, but sometimes at a tolerable figure to gentlemen who did not know him. His appearance was striking and his action good, and thus those who were unacquainted with him always thought they had got a great bargain if they obtained him for about fifty pounds. This brute, however, would undergo any and every species of punishment rather than work, and, when harnessed, would very deliberately lie down when the whip was applied to him. A short time ago too a very remarkably fine horse was sold at the hammer for I think six pounds, and disposed of immediately afterwards for eighty. A friend of mine, who knew him, told me that, after going a short distance, he became perfectly paralytic, and could not move in a straight line, and predicted that he would ere long re-appear at auction, which prophecy was fulfilled the following week. A third horse belonging to a friend of mine was every few days suddenly seized with rheumatism to such a degree that he has been obliged to have him taken out of harness in the streets, and put into the nearest stable, which he had always great difficulty in reaching: and a fourth I have known, after having been run up and down a ride half a dozen times, drop suddenly behind and become

incapable of going farther. He had been probably hurt in the back at some period or other, and on a little over-exertion of some muscle, the nerve supplying it would be all at once affected, and produce instant incapability of progression, and lameness for a certain time.

These horses, after they become known to the dealing fraternity, prove a rich harvest to them, for they pick them up for a mere trifle, and then, after having nursed them for a short time, advertise them as "the property of a gentleman going abroad;" or of one "who has met with an accident and cannot ride;" or "of a lady or gentleman deceased, and to be sold by order of the executors." These traps are generally baited with the assurance that "they will be parted with for half their value *to a kind master*;" and commonly finish with the notice that "no dealer need apply."—At first sight it would appear to the uninitiated that this winding-up is on account of the unwillingness of the owner to suffer his favorite horse to get into the hands of any scamp who may play tricks with him; but the real truth is, that every dealer well knows his brethren are not easily done, and consequently the termination of the advertisement saves useless trouble on both sides.

I had almost forgotten to say that horses that have received any injury of the spine, or that have

any complaint of the kidneys (which causes them to bend or droop behind, and more or less impedes the action of the hind-quarters), have among dealers received the euphonious appellation of *kidney-droppers*.

From what I have said respecting those tricks and diseases which may not be immediately manifest, but which are only discovered after a time, the necessity of a sufficient trial before purchasing a horse must be evident; and this, whenever it can be obtained, should invariably be backed by a warranty of soundness and freedom from vice. In these days of the "march of intellect," nine gentlemen out of ten are tolerably conversant with the points and diseases of the horse, and on that account, and for the purpose of avoiding disputes, it has for a long time been the custom at Tattersall's to sell horses at auction without a warranty; but in that establishment every horse for sale on Monday must be in the stables by four o'clock on Friday; and thus plenty of time is allowed both for inspection and trial (in the ring adjoining the yard) before the auction commences. Dealers here are obliged, in common with others, to purchase horses without a warranty; but the stablemen are generally in their interest, and obtain from the groom the character of every horse that comes into the yard, which they retail to the deal-

ers, whose judgment is thus, in most cases, backed by private intelligence from head-quarters. Nevertheless they of course do sometimes get taken in as well as their neighbours, and consequently must not be run down for selling a good horse, when they happen to get one, for a much higher sum than they have paid for him. Nothing is more unfair than to call a man a rogue for making the most of an animal that belongs to him, provided he use no deceit in disposing of him; and if a horse be sound and good, there is no precise limit within the bounds of reason that can be put to his price. There are many dealers in London that have as good a character for honesty and fair dealing as men in any other business; and although it may be true that they frequently demand a higher price for horses than they may possibly be bought for elsewhere, they are not on that account to be considered as acting unfairly. Any person, without being a dealer, may now and then pick up a horse a great bargain, especially in London, where the vicissitudes of fortune, caprice, or any other reason, daily cause people to part with their horses for almost any sum that may be bid for them; but it by no means follows that the person thus becoming master of a valuable animal should be considered a rogue if he sell him for two or three times as much as he gave for him, provided

always that he be disposed of without any misrepresentation. Fancy, in short, goes so far in the purchase of a horse, that no two people can be found to agree in their opinion on this subject, whether with reference to capabilities, points, or value.

I shall now give a short description of the mode very generally adopted by low dealers in selling a horse. For this purpose I will suppose a horse to be brought out for inspection that is a *little* lame before: the factotum brings him out well-tingered, and probably after having administered three or four sharp cuts to his belly or legs—places where wheals do not readily shew themselves—the animal rushes out of the stable, his tail on end, his nostrils dilated, and looking altogether exceedingly plucky—*alias* extremely frightened. He is led to rising ground, where he appears higher than he really is, as his fore-legs are raised above the spot whence you examine him. You proceed to inspect him, and when you are about to feel the doubtful leg, a sly wave of the whip—which the poor brute is all along expecting to be applied to him—produces a caper, which probably induces you to get out of the way of being trodden on; and this manœuvre is constantly resorted to whenever you wish to pass your hand down the *game* leg. At length, when you get rather tired of this, the word is given, “Run on,

Tom." Crack goes the whip, the hat is taken off, and a rattling noise is made by beating it with the fist: away goes the horse, prancing, capering, and cantering up the yard and back again, his head well supported by a tight-held bit, and his shoulder by that of the man who leads him. "I want to see him trot, Mr. So-and-So; he seems to do nothing but canter." The dealer well knows the lameness will be seen at this pace. "Why don't you let the horse trot, Tom?—the gen'leman wants to see him *trot*"—(crack—crack—rattle—rattle). Upon this ensues a second edition of the capering and cantering. "Beautiful trotter, Sir, 'pon my word—but he won't settle into a trot here, Sir: did fourteen miles within the hour no longer ago than yesterday, with his knee up to his chin.—That'll do, Tom, *go in*."—"Stop, stop, I want to see a little more of him."—"Go in, Tom, go in: what'll you give for him, Sir? He's worth a hundred—he is indeed. I refused a deal of money for him last week, but I must go down to —

• fair the day after to-morrow, and so I'm determined to sell off what I've got." Now should you make an offer for him greater than the dealer would be delighted to take, he is too great a philosopher to manifest any joy at your bidding, but shakes his head, tells you innumerable lies, which are all at his fingers' ends, and asks you a farther sum,

Supposing he finds you peremptory in adhering to your first offer, he comes down in his demands in the following way:—"Well, Sir, I shall sell, as I said afore, but you *must spring* a little, Sir. Now do you *try* and buy him, Sir, and I dare say we shall not fall out."



SHOWING OFF A GROGGY SCREW.

"Upon this hint you speak," and offer perhaps two, three, or five pounds more.—"No, 'pon my word you're too hard upon me, Sir: say two pounds more, and he is yours, Sir—there now."—"No; I'll not give another penny."—"Well, then, I tell you what I suppose we must do, Sir, *we must split the difference*, and you must give me a pound—

that's fair." This proposition is perhaps acceded to, and you find at length that your friend the dealer would gladly have taken much less than your first offer. However, of this be sure, that so long as you manifest the slightest symptom of continuing to bid, so long will the bargaining go on; and, supposing you to offer *ten pounds less* than a dealer will sell for, he will then ask *ten pounds more* than his price, in order that the final proposal of "splitting the difference" may obtain for him the sum he requires.

This being the case, after having acquired some experience relative to the value of horses, you should, when you have made up your mind as to the price you are willing to give for one, never allow your judgment to be warped by the representations of the owner, whose interest it is to say as much as possible in favour of his own property; nor suffer yourself to be tempted to offer a larger sum than you conceive to be the worth of a horse by accounts of his having "leaped such a turnpike gate," or "left a whole field of hunters behind him in a severe run," or "trotted so many miles in harness within the hour," unless you have a good opportunity afforded you of ascertaining the truth of these statements, or of putting their probability to the test.

It is the business of a horse-dealer to cry up

his cattle above all others ; but such is the horse-mania with which nine Englishmen out of ten are infected, that Gentlemen very seldom tell the *exact truth* when dilating on the merits of their own nag. I do not by any means intend to insinuate that any gentleman will tell a wilful falsehood respecting his horse ; but such is the desire to be thought to possess a good one, and to be considered a judge of horse-flesh, that every man, almost unintentionally, is led to extol the qualities of his horse in a somewhat exaggerated strain ; and when he wants to part with him, he of course cannot unsay what he has already said in his praise, and consequently sells him with a character to which he is perhaps not strictly entitled.

In purchasing a horse therefore, once more I repeat, “ take nothing for granted,” even from a friend (and this is saying a great deal, *but by no means too much—experto crede*), but have a trial when you can get one, and form your own opinion, out of which do not allow yourself to be talked.

Were it not for the extraordinary accounts that we are constantly in the habit of seeing in the newspapers of the mode in which some men are taken in by vagabond horse-dealers of the lowest description, it would appear almost unnecessary to notice some of the common tricks of these fellows, so often have they been exposed ; but as they

are, in spite of their staleness, every now and then successfully practised upon the unwary, an exposition of some of the manœuvres of these vagabonds will not be misplaced.

One of their commonest tricks is to buy a fine-looking but unsound horse, very frequently a rank roarer, or a "bit of blood" that has broken down, and advertise him with the usual excuses of sale which I have already noticed. If he is for sale in the hunting season, "no fence is too high, nor hounds too fast for him;" or "he is by Highflyer or Cock Robin—(or some other horse that flourished perhaps fifty years ago—for your dealer is neither very well versed in the lore of the Racing Calendar, nor very particular)—out of Skyscraper's dam, &c., and was bought of the breeder." If he is to be disposed of at the beginning of the summer—"he is a delightful hack—a splendid park-horse—has been a few times in harness and went very quiet—has grand and fast action, and is parted with for no fault, ill health being the owner's reason for selling him," &c. Probably fifteen pounds would well repay the advertiser for his purchase, and he may be ready and delighted to take that sum for him. Attracted by the description given of the horse (which is represented as being able to do everything but talk), a customer, rather *green*, proceeds to inspect him. Half a glance is sufficient to inform the dealer (who is

generally in a groom's livery, and says "his master is out of town") that the person examining the horse is a novice. There is a timidity about those unaccustomed to horses, an awkwardness in handling them, and a want of method in their examination, that betrays the unpractised hand in a moment to the experienced eye of a *Coper*, as a low dealer is termed. He, therefore, unblushingly asks three or four times the money that he is prepared to take for his horse, and very fairly offers a trial of him. "Take him away for two or three days, Sir, and do what you like with him. Master won't sell him to any one as ain't satisfied with him, and you'll find him better than I tells you he is." Charmed with this liberal mode of doing business, our flat accepts the offer, and in an evil hour bestrides the horse, *after leaving a deposit in the hands of the groom nearly equalling the sum asked for him*, besides giving that worthy functionary a sovereign for himself for the very honest information he has vouchsafed to bestow upon him, and for having promised for this reward "to get five or ten pounds thrown off the price."

The horse is walked off the stones, when his rider begins to think that it will not be amiss to try how his bargain can trot, and then does he "a tale unfold." Either he roars more sonorously than do the united tenants of Van Amburgh's

largest cage, or he turns dead lame, or displays some vice which is by no means agreeable to an unexperienced equestrian. He is accordingly turned round, and his rider, indignation oozing at every pore, takes him back to his stable, and calls loudly for "the Groom." As well may he

"call spirits from the vasty deep!"

In answer to his summons appears an ostler, who affirms that "the gemman is gone; that he only brought the 'oss there the night afore from the country, and that he knows nothing about him." Here is a dilemma for a novice! Instead of the deposit he has left being ten or fifteen pounds less than the value of the horse, it is twenty pounds more than he is worth; and the man who has got his money will probably, if caught, take the benefit of the "Insolvent Act;" or give a bill for the horse back again, sell him to another flat, and be *non est inventus* when the bill becomes due; or he may possibly, through the uninterested testimony of that honest worthy, the ostler, prove that he fairly sold the horse without a warranty, and that the purchaser must be the loser by his want of knowledge. On the one hand, there is the uncertainty of finding a rogue whom this poor wight knows not where to look for, and who perhaps is metamorphosed into "a swell," with formidable moustaches, an eye-glass, and gold-headed cane;

in short, into a being who would never be recognised as the smooth-haired unwhiskered groom, with the narrow white handkerchief tied tightly round his throat, the striped black and yellow waistcoat, the bagging breeches, and knowing tops, and who, unless discovered forthwith and with his money in his pocket, and afterwards convicted of roguery, is probably not worth a shilling: and on the other hand is a horse by which he certainly now must lose money, but whose defects, if he will take the trouble to study them, may save him a deal of expenditure hereafter, and furnish him with abundance of experience on many points worth knowing. Then again there is the *trouble* of setting constables on the look out for a man of whom perhaps he can give but a very poor description—and this point is a very weighty one with many people—and the fees wherewith the palms of these conscientious dignitaries are to be greased. On the whole, then, many a man is disposed to put up with his first loss as the least, and the vagabond by whom he has been cheated is allowed to be at large, and to practise similar frauds upon unwitting customers whenever he can pick up a *good screw*,—a species of animal prized beyond measure by all that genus of rascals who do not scruple to swear to the soundness of any animal they possess, be their diseases and defects more numerous than

those contained in the whole range of Professor Coleman's Lectures.

In order to illustrate the unblushing effrontery with which your low dealer palms off an unsound horse, I will relate one instance among many of those in which I have laid bare the schemes of these rascals. Being in want of a horse, and having plenty of time on my hands, I one morning wrote down the addresses given in several advertisements describing horses gifted with every good quality that can well be imagined, and forthwith proceeded to hunt up the owners of these matchless steeds. In my peregrinations I lighted upon two horses in the Red Lion Yard, Holborn (a noted coper's stable), one of which was a remarkably fine brown horse that I thought would suit my purpose. Accordingly I had him out, and, thinking him a little lame in one foreleg, would have nothing to do with him. In vain did a groom in livery and a stable-boy in undress endeavour to persuade me to "take the horse on trial for a week, and ride and drive him as I liked." I insisted on a reference, and was informed that "the horses belonged to a gentleman who lived in the first white house beyond Streatham Church, and that his only reason for selling them was that he had a dreadful complaint in the kidneys, and had just undergone a terrible

operation, performed by Sir Astley Cooper, who declared he could not live many days." Now it so happened that I was going that road, and, therefore, having learnt the gentleman's name, I took my departure, resolved to give him a call as I rode through Streatham. In the meantime I proceeded to the Portugal Stables, Lincoln's Inn Fields, where I found two uncommonly handsome horses "warranted sound in every respect." I was told "they belonged to a Captain Somebody, at Acton-Bottom, and that he was ordered to join his regiment abroad immediately, and consequently would part with his horses for much less than their real value. This finale to the description led me to inspect them rather closely, notwithstanding they were the property of a gentleman. One, a bay horse, I found to be a roarer; and the other, one of the handsomest chesnut horses I ever saw, had so terrible a canker of one foot that I was certain he must be dead lame. However, to set the matter at rest, I desired the man to lead him out and run him up and down the street. Upon this I was given to understand that "the parochial authorities had ordered that no led horses should be allowed to be shewn off in that parish!" This, of course, I knew to be a lie; but to dispute the matter being perfectly useless, I desired that the horse might be saddled

and bridled, and ridden in the square. The excuse for not complying with this request was, "that the groom had taken back the saddles and bridles to Acton, and that they had not one in the stable." While this explanation was in course of being made, the door opened, and "the Captain" entered, accoutred in a black frock coat, from the collar of which depended an eye-glass, wearing a formidable pair of spurs, and having in his hand a cane of some pretensions. He at once confirmed what his man had stated, and assured me both horses were perfectly sound and quiet. To this I replied, that "the bay horse was certainly a roarer, and I had every reason to believe that the chesnut must be lame."—"Why " replied *the Captain*, stammering, "the fact is he is a little of a roarer, but I assure you you won't hear him in harness." Here was an admission of falsehood which was quite enough to satisfy any one of the character of the person he had to deal with; and besides I well knew my military friend's face at every auction of horses at which I had happened to be present, to say nothing of that indescribable something which betrayed the would-be gentleman. As nothing could induce him to allow the chesnut horse to be taken out of the stable, I took my leave, and, on passing through Streatham the same day, made many and futile inquiries for the

unfortunate gentleman who was so soon to take his departure for the other world under the auspices of Sir Astley. No one had ever heard of such a name in the village, and the blacksmith, whose forge was close to the church, had never shod any such person's horses. Being in town the following morning, and passing through Holborn, I had the brown horse out again, for his lameness was so trifling that I was almost undecided whether I should not buy, and endeavour to cure him. The groom of course swore "the horse had never been lame, and that his master being all but defunct, *if I would give him a guinea for himself*, I should have the horse a bargain." He was perfectly astonished that I should not have been able to discover his master's residence, and was proceeding with a long detail of his complaints and sufferings, when the stable-boy, who was utterly ignorant of this portion of the plot, suddenly emerged from the stable and exclaimed, "here comes master."—"Why," said I, "I thought you told me he could not leave his bed."—"He is obliged to come up now and then to see Sir Astley, Sir." I turned round, and, coming up the yard with amazing vigor for a man with a mortal complaint of the kidneys, and altogether with a truly wonderful air of *nonchalance* for an unfortunate wretch who had only a few days to live, did I behold THE ACTON-

BOTTOM CAPTAIN ! The fellow could not repress a grin, which, to do his character credit, in nowise betrayed the slightest symptom of awkwardness in being detected in a second falsehood, and immediately launched forth in praise of the horse I was looking at, as though he cared not a rush for the *exposé* of his want of veracity the day before, and considered that such representations were all to be considered as made “in the way of business.”

It is almost needless to add that I had no farther business with him, but walked out of the yard before he had well got through the exordium of his panegyric on the brown horse.

Were I to detail the numerous deceptions that are daily practised in this way, and the barefaced lies that are hourly told by dealers of no credit and their under-strappers, I should impose upon myself a task as endless as Penelope’s web ; therefore “*ex uno disce omnes* ;” and whenever you hear a long tale about a horse from a suspicious agent, and cannot procure a reference to a gentleman, or a sufficient trial, you may safely take it for granted that all you have been told is a tissue of lies, and that if you buy a horse from the description given you by a dealer’s man, you will be wofully disappointed in your expectations of having made a good bargain.

In spite, however, of all I have said on this subject, it is ten to one that a novice, after having carefully booked all my admonitions, will, on the very first occasion of coming in contact with a cunning dealer, allow himself to be talked out of his better judgment, and persuaded to buy a horse that he is almost certain will not suit him. Such is the force of a horse-dealer's eloquence, such is the easy flow and vividness of his descriptions, and such the beauty and captivating aptness of his similes, that, great as is the fame of Cicero and Demosthenes, were they alive at this day, and to do the utmost their fancy could suggest in praise of a horse, the flowers of their oratory would seem withered and faded when compared to the bright colours in which the lowest of our English copers and horse-chaunters pourtray their imaginings. What fast-flowing fancies of delight must inevitably seize upon the mind of the tyro in horse-dealing—predetermined to be cautious, and have his eyes wide open to the slightest defect—when he hears a horse extolled as “gay as a peacock—fine as a star—full of pluck as a game-cock—that can gallop as fast as you can clap your hands—jump like a buck,” &c., it is by no means difficult to conceive. He sees himself in imagination mounted upon a horse of this description—he outstrips every horse with the Royal Stag-hounds

—he tops fences and clears brooks that no other hunter will face—he wilfully passes over some faults that he cannot help noticing—he pays his cash—and finds that he has luckily half his money's worth, and has bought. experience !

A friend of mine was once *done* in the following way. He repaired, with more cash than wisdom, to the stables of a horse-dealer, and, having selected a nag that he thought would suit his purpose, demanded the price. The dealer, perceiving his customer to be a little *green*, immediately asked about fifteen pounds more than he meant to take, and, finding that the price was not objected to, began no doubt to think himself an egregious ass for not having demanded more. He, therefore, requested my friend to look round his stables, and to try some other horses ; and, while thus employed, despatched a message to a confederate, who quickly arrived as a stranger, and unhesitatingly bought the horse first brought out at all the money that was asked for him, declaring he had never picked up such a bargain. In this assertion he was strenuously backed by the dealer, who regretted that my friend had not decided at once upon taking so cheap a horse himself, and added in a whisper, “ Offer him five pounds for his bargain, Sir, I know something about him ; he'll sell.” —“ Upon this hint he spake,” and to

some purpose too, for he of course got the horse, and learned a lesson in dealing into the bargain—his purchase turning out, when *minus* the ginger and threats of the coper's yard, a very sorry beast indeed !

In no place is confederacy more resorted to than at horse-auctions. There, if you chance to look at a dealer's horse, you will probably be entertained by the discourse of two fellows, directed *at* but not *to* you, respecting the wonderful qualities of the animal your attention is drawn to. If worth ten pounds, you will probably hear something of the following nature :—" S'help me God, Bill, sound as a rock, an' only comin' six this grass. There—I know'd him ven Tom Smith druv him in a four-v'll shay all the vay down to St. Alban's in an hour and twenty minutes, an' then rid him with the fox-hounds all day, and he com'd home in the evenin' as gay as a lark ! I dare say he von't fetch much more nor a score, an' *I* means to have him if he goes anything like that price. Ven he's in condition I think he's the 'andsomest 'oss as you can see ; an' sich a-goer ! You need not cough him, Sir ; Lor' bless you, his vind's as clear as a vistle. He can go longer and further nor you'd like to ride him without stoppin' !"

At length the horse goes to the hammer. Some friends, who are put up to the scheme, get about

him and keep you at a respectful distance, while an animated bidding goes on, until, thinking the horse must be cheap to attract the admiration of so many good judges, you are perhaps induced to nod your head to the auctioneer when the bidding has reached eighteen guineas. You find you have just bid the very money he must be exactly worth ; for, strange to say, no one of all the numerous host so anxious to possess him offers a penny above you. What is still more pleasant, you are urged on by some low vagabond at your elbow to buy the horse, who, when you have purchased him, hopes you will “ remember him for his recommendation :” or, which is still more probable, he asks permission to bid for you, assuring you that his brother dealers will not bid against *him*, and that you will thus get the horse cheap. This kind friend eventually asks a guinea for buying him, and thus your ten-pound horse costs you about twice as much as he is worth.

It may be imagined that such tricks are only played off at those auctions where very low-priced horses are sold ; but the truth is, that, although there is more scope there for the exercise of the low dealer's cunning, particularly if a gentleman attempt to buy horses at them, there is no auction that is not regularly frequented by these *guinea-hunters*, as they are called, and where a good-look-

ing screw is not sent for sale almost as frequently as elsewhere.

Does a dealer buy, or appear to buy (for they are frequently the only bidders for their own property), a horse at auction, and you offer him a certain sum above what he has given, he will tell you that "he has paid away so much *in the ring*;" by which expression is meant, all the dealers who would have bid against him had he not bought them off. Thus a horse is knocked down for twenty pounds, and you offer the purchaser two or three and twenty pounds for him: the answer is, that "four pounds have been given away among other dealers, and that you cannot have him for less than five-and-twenty guineas." As for the truth of this assertion, you may believe just as much of it as you please; the real value of the horse is the only thing to be considered.

It would be as tedious as impossible to detail all the manœuvres and tricks of the lower class of horse-dealers, and, therefore, it may be as well to sum up the list of their offences against common honesty, by saying, that a very great porportion of them do not hesitate to put in practice any species of rascality, no matter of what description, in order to take in the unwary, and pluck a feather from the wing of that goose, the public, relying chiefly upon their own unblushing effrontery to preserve

them from the magisterial fang, and upon their poverty to defend them from the chance of being sued at law.

At the same time that I make this declaration, I would remark that to every rule there are exceptions, and I should be sorry to imagine that every horse-dealer who is not rich enough to purchase first-rate horses must *ipso facto* be a rogue; but still the force of example, and the contaminating association with unscrupulous knaves, must go far to take off the sharp edge of honesty; and I would, therefore, instil into you the rule, that it is best in purchasing a horse of a dealer, whom you know nothing of, to "close your ears carefully with cotton, and to open your eyes to their fullest extent."

CHAPTER VIII.

SOME REMARKS ON STABLING AND THE MANAGEMENT OF HORSES.

THERE are but few owners of horses who go to the expense of building stables. Those who do so, and without regard to expense, can of course erect them on a plan which will ensure every comfort and advantage to the horses that are to inhabit them ; and, therefore, on this subject I shall have but few remarks to make. Very many ill-arranged stables may nevertheless be greatly improved by a few trifling alterations ; and the observations I may have to make on this head must serve in some measure as a guide to those who are about to rebuild.

It must ever be borne in mind that the first grand requisite towards health and condition is thorough ventilation. Without this, a horse, if not actually the subject of disease, as is too often the case, becomes languid and incapable of much exertion. His muscles waste, and have not that firm,

hard, elastic feel which those of a well-conditioned horse impart; and if suffered for any length of time to inhabit a close and ill-ventilated stable, he will invariably betray symptoms of actual local disease, independent of his general want of vigor. The eyes are a part of the body which very soon suffer from being subjected to hot and impure air, whenever impregnated with the effluvia of dung or urine allowed to accumulate in a stable; and when the greatest attention is paid to cleanliness, if there be not a free ingress and egress for pure and fresh air, the lungs will soon become actually diseased, or in a state to be very easily affected by slight causes of irritation.

Many people imagine that it is quite sufficient to admit air into a stable; but this is an error. Not only must there be a sufficient provision for the entrance of fresh air into the stable, but likewise an aperture where it may make its escape, and thus create a draught, by which all impurities in the atmosphere may be carried off.

Good air, it must never be forgotten, is the *pabulum vitæ*. The blood is generally so denominated; and it is very true that from that source all the secretions of the body are derived, and the health and vigor of the frame kept up. But before the blood can become in a fit state to carry on life AT ALL, it must be subjected, in its passage

through the lungs, to the action of the atmosphere; and the purer this is, the greater will be its effect upon the blood, and consequently upon the constitution in general. Hence it is not by any means difficult to imagine how great a desideratum is uncontaminated air to animal life, and how surely the deprivation of it must create debility, and eventually lead to disease. Glanders—the stable-plague—is a very frequent result of confinement in a close atmosphere, and, being highly infectious, is not always got rid of by the strictest attention to cleanliness and ventilation, even long after horses affected with that complaint have been removed.

I have generally found that the best plan of ventilating a close stable is to cut a large double trap-door in the floor of the loft, and to make an aperture, if there be not one already, above the stable door, which may be partially or entirely closed by a hinged shutter, sawn into two or three pieces, and one or more of which may be closed or left open at pleasure.

Where there is no loft to the stable, a hole of sufficient magnitude should be made in the roof, which should be covered by a small square turret, about two feet in height, with a shutter on each side. Either of these may be closed according to the wind or the state of the weather. A stable

with a loft is, however, in my opinion far preferable to one without. It may be made quite as warm as any other in winter, and is much cooler in summer, as horses do not stand directly under the roof, which, whether tiled or slated, acquires a considerable degree of heat from exposure to the sun. The loft of a stable, on the other hand, can always be kept cool by leaving the door open, in addition to both flaps of the double trap-door already mentioned, and thus a superstratum of cool air can be constantly kept up.

A stable with a loft should always be ceiled to prevent dust from falling upon the horses through the boards of the loft-floor. With regard to the quantity of light to be admitted into a stable, much difference of opinion prevails. For my own part, I should say never let your stable be dark. Darkness keeps a horse constantly dozing, and tends to create a want of activity and liveliness, which those who are advocates for little light pretend are thereby augmented when a horse is taken out to exercise. I do not believe a word of this myself, and will contend that plenty of light admitted into a stable renders a horse cheerful, and furnishes the natural stimulus to the eyes, which, if long kept in darkness, are extremely irritable on being brought into the glare of day, and cause a horse to go for some time, until he becomes ac-

customed to the light, as though he were moon-blind.

Your stable windows should always be made to open ; and, where a horse is allowed to be loose, should have iron-bars within sufficiently close to each other to prevent his poking his nose between them. This is the best economy, for without them you will find yourself compelled every week to replace broken squares of glass. Horses that are kept without much work soon become mischievous ; and I have often remarked that they will get into a habit of breaking the windows of their stable by rubbing their noses against them, first gently, and then a little harder, until they find out just the degree of force necessary to accomplish their object, which, when obtained, seems to please them greatly, and affords a species of pastime which soon becomes habitual.

In building a stable, loftiness and plenty of room behind the horses are two grand desiderata. The clear width of the stalls inside the wood-work should not be less than six feet, and the divisions between them not less than seven clear of the manger ; as, where they are shorter, horses very frequently kick each other. It is very much the fashion to make the floor of the stall much higher near the manger than behind. All dealers' stables are built in this manner, for the purpose of shew-

ing off the horses in them, as it causes them to appear one or two inches higher than they really are. Nevertheless a person who consults appearances less than his horse's comfort will never allow him to stand constantly on rising ground, which is a most fatiguing position for the legs. The way in which a horse standing in a stall with a considerable rise constantly shifts one leg and then the other, resting them alternately, sufficiently demonstrates the uneasiness of his position, to say nothing of the constant strain upon the back sinews which it occasions. A slight descent in a stall is, however, desirable for the purpose of carrying off the urine, though many people prefer that their horses should stand with their hind legs more elevated than any other part. Perfectly level ground affords undoubtedly the most comfortable standing for any four-footed animal ; but the advantages of draining must not be overlooked, and a little additional straw can very easily be laid towards a horse's heels, where that part is lowest. The paving of each stall should gradually incline towards a drain at the bottom of the stalls, made with a very considerable slope in order that the urine which falls into it may be immediately carried away from the stable. This drain immediately receives the urine from a mare; and a second should be made in the centre of each stall,

covered with a fine grating, to catch that from a horse. Several pails of water should every now and then be thrown down this latter drain, and the mouth of it, which should always be covered by a trap, examined to see that its course be free; for, depend upon it, that every bad smell allowed to remain for any length of time in your stable cannot but be highly injurious to your horses.

I am not by any means an advocate for those basin-shaped mangers which are now so common. The old-fashioned manger, in my opinion, is far preferable. Many a hungry horse, on putting his nose into a feed of oats, throws it right and left, and consequently spills a considerable quantity out of these small mangers, or hits his jaws against the sides, if, as is frequently the case, they are curved inwards to prevent the waste of corn. Besides, a greedy horse and one that is given to bolt his food requires that it should be spread thinly over a large surface, a thing which is impossible in a small manger, where the corn, being laid in a heap, allows a horse to take a large quantity into his mouth at a time, and as he has no trouble in picking it up, to swallow it before it be half masticated. Added to this, few horses, while feeding, will keep their heads constantly over a very small manger, and consequent-

ly they let drop into the stall a quantity of oats, which, with a larger manger, would have been saved.

It is a good plan to have the edge of a manger sheeted with iron. It prevents horses from acquiring a knack, which they easily get, of gnawing their manger—a habit which frequently instigates to crib-biting, the most detestable of all nuisances. Many crib-biters, unless hardened in sin, will also refuse to bite an iron-bound manger; and as the expense of that metal is not great, the propriety of employing it as a saving in the article of new mangers, and as a preventive of the acquirement of a bad habit, is obvious.

With respect to your rack, let that also be of iron, and placed as low as possible, so that it stand clear of the manger, and leave sufficient room for a horse to get his head comfortably between the two. I am well convinced that those racks which are placed so high as to make a horse raise his head much to get at his food are injurious. The natural position of a horse's head in feeding will at once demonstrate the absurdity of making him raise it very high to reach his hay; added to which, he every now and then, in pulling it from his rack, shakes some hay-seeds into his eyes, which produce irritation there, and may render him unserviceable for some days.

A well-regulated stable ought to be supplied with a thermometer. Nothing conduces more to the well-being of any animal than keeping him in a proper and equal temperature. I would never advise that a stable should be kept hot ; and, after what I have already said of the necessity of free ventilation, it will naturally be supposed that I am no advocate for totally excluding the air at any time. But the weather must of course regulate the quantity to be admitted at different times ; and in order to ascertain this point a thermometer is an extremely useful guide. Feel your horse's hide under his clothes occasionally, and take care that it be always perfectly warm. No animal will ever thrive while it continues to feel cold, and the horse perhaps least of any. Plenty of fresh air to breathe, and plenty of good clothes to keep up the circulation in the skin, are two absolute essentials to good condition. In addition to body-clothes, whenever the extremities feel cold, apply dry flannel bandages loosely round the legs. Of these I shall have more to say presently. I have known hunting-grooms keep their studs constantly in a temperature of 65°, but this I think rather too high : such a degree of heat obliges them to be kept in brisk exercise when they are out, or they will be very liable to colds and inflammations.

It is almost unnecessary to say, that, in conjunction with free ventilation, cleanliness in every department of the stable is a requisite of the highest importance. It is not simply sufficient that impure air should find a ready vent; it should never be generated. The act of respiration deprives atmospheric air of one of its component parts essential to the continuance of life, and hence the necessity of affording a fresh supply of it to all animals. In speaking, however, of impure air, I do not allude to that which has already been respired, but to that which is impregnated with exhalations from dung, urine, or other noxious substances. It must be evident to every thinking person that nothing can be more prejudicial to the health and consequent vigour of the horse than his being suffered constantly to breathe an atmosphere loaded with the effluvia of putrescent matter; and yet nothing is perhaps so common as to find stables, to all appearance kept in the nicest order, in which but a moderate attention is paid to the avoidance of this fruitful source of debility and disease. It is a very favorite plan with many grooms, if not strictly looked after, to sweep up the stable at night, and then, instead of carrying the dung away at once, to hide it under the corner of a horse's bed, to be removed perhaps the next or the following day.

Thus during the whole of the night is an animal left to breathe an air contaminated with miasmata from matter in a state of decomposition, and which very frequently, on being first voided, occasions a most intolerable smell of a highly pungent character, which, as I have already remarked, is as injurious to the eyes, from its stimulating properties, as it is detrimental to health from its effects upon the blood.

As for the straw which is impregnated with urine, it is the invariable custom of nineteen grooms out of twenty to allow it to remain at the bottom of a horse's bed for several days, when it is at length cleaned away; and let any one remain in a stable thus kept while this operation is being performed, and try the effect it has upon his own eyes, if he wish to judge of it upon those of his horses. This Augæan labor is termed "mucking out;" and whenever you hear the expression used by your groom, be sure that his habits are not of the cleanliest order. In fact such an operation as "mucking out" should, in a well-regulated stable, be an impossibility, for there never should be any "muck" to take away. I remember having heard that a crusty old merchant, whose name I will not mention, was always in the habit of asking an applicant for a clerk's berth whether he was a good hand at "*scratching out*." If the an-

swer was in the affirmative, the reply always was, "then, my good fellow, you won't do for me, for my clerks must never make mistakes." You may, therefore, previously to hiring a groom, ask him "how often he mucks out," and should he say "once a week, or twice a week, Sir," the sooner he "mucks himself out" the better. Some of these gentry, indeed, think that to look after a horse properly requires no sort of training to the business at all; and I have known one of them who applied for the situation of groom to a gentleman, who kept hunters too, acknowledge very cavalierly "that he did not know much about *nags*, but had looked arter a caow a good bit!"

A horse's bed should be shaken out regularly every morning, every particle of dirt or foul straw removed, and the stones swept perfectly clean. Whatever portion of the straw is retained should be tucked under the manger, and never allowed to remain under a horse unless he have done hard work on the previous day and seem disposed to lie down. This is a case which requires that the general rule should be departed from; but, as a common practice, no habit is more injurious to a horse's feet than that of suffering them to remain constantly buried in straw. It is generally allowed that the feet of cavalry horses, taking them one with another, are more free from disease than

those of private individuals, and I believe that in no horse regiment in our service is the litter allowed to remain all day under a horse's feet. For my own part, I like to see a stable well swept out, and the horses standing on the bare stones; but I do not imagine that much injury can result to the feet from standing on a very thin layer of straw, where it is considered as improving the appearance of a stable: however, the less straw so used the better, except in very cold weather.

While horses are at exercise the stable should every now and then be washed out, and the mangers scalded with hot water and scraped. The urine, and whatever litter or dirt may have fallen into the common drain, should be removed, and never allowed, even for a single day, to accumulate either in or near the stable. Unless the weather be very damp, let the door and windows be left open while the horses are out, and take care that neither dogs nor fowls have access. Some people are very fond of keeping dogs in a stable, and others allow poultry to enter whenever they please; by which pleasing amalgamation of the smells of a hen-house and kennel, they keep their horses ready to fall victims to the first serious malady by which they may be attacked.

When your horse is about to be done up for the night, do you go into the stable, unless you have

a groom whom you can perfectly trust, and see that all the litter be well shaken, so that there shall be no clods or lumps in it, and that there be plenty of it, and well laid up at the sides and corners. Let the clothes be put on afresh, and remember, if they should hang too much over a horse's quarters, they are not to be drawn up against the coat, but to be taken off and put on again. Next see that they lie evenly under the roller—a spring roller—that is, one made with elastic bands, the inventor of which is Mr. Coleman of the Turf Hotel, St. Alban's, who always keeps a good stock of them on hand. Do not let the fore-piece of the head-stall press on the roots of the ears, and put your hand under the cloth where it covers part of the neck to ascertain that the mane lies evenly under it, otherwise it will soon acquire a disposition to lie on the wrong side.

This done, feel your horse's legs all round, and be certain that they be comfortably warm; for if the blood do not circulate freely in the extremities, the horse will probably remain chilled during the whole of the night. Moreover, coldness of the legs, and nose, and ears, is oftentimes a symptom of greater evil than may at first be imagined, and, therefore, it is necessary to correct it as soon as discovered. For this purpose let

your groom handrub the legs assiduously for some time after they begin to feel warm, and afterwards apply loose and warm flannel bandages to them to ensure their remaining so. To handrub a horse's legs effectually, it is a good plan to have a pair of gloves shaped like a bag with a thumb to it, and made of the same material as a horse's nose-bag. This is a system adopted in our cavalry regiments in India, where every horse's legs are regularly rubbed every night and morning for a certain length of time, the trumpet marking the period allotted for rubbing each leg. Gloves made of the material already mentioned are also there used for cleaning every part of the body, and it would be well if they were employed in this country during the time that a horse is shedding his coat; for if a brush be much used then, some horses will soon become almost entirely stripped of their coat, and liable to take cold.

Every horse's feet, and particularly those that are rather brittle, should be regularly stopped at least three times a week with moist cow-dung (to which those who like it may add a little clay), or else with the pads of which I have already made mention, soaked in water. In addition to this they should twice in the week be well brushed with a mixture of equal weights of tar and tallow,

melted together, which precaution will save many a brittle hoof from cracking.

After horses are done up for the night, I have almost invariably been in the habit myself either of remaining a few minutes in the stable, after the light has been extinguished, or of returning there in a short time without a candle, in order to be perfectly assured that no sparks have fallen among the litter. Few people will take the trouble to do this, although it be not very great; but when we consider that a horse's litter and the greater part of his provender consist of the most inflammable materials, *and that when once a horse smells fire nothing will induce him to move*, it can hardly be supposed that a precaution so easily taken ought to be weighed in the balance with the remotest chance of losing one or more valuable horses, if the injury go no farther. When a gentleman gives an eye to his own stable, the *habit* of going into it a short time after the light has been removed, and of putting his head for a minute or two into the loft, is very soon acquired, and is then not thought troublesome.

I shall now proceed to say a few words on the subject of cleaning a horse, one which it is very requisite that every master of horses should understand, or very many grooms will slur over this part of their business if they find that they can

do so with impunity. I like to see a man proceed *systematically* with the operation of grooming a horse, never leaving any part until it be completely and thoroughly cleaned with whatever implement he may for the time have in hand. You will frequently see a man not accustomed to look after horses first rub the shoulder a little, then the hind-quarters, and then one or other of the legs, and so skip about from one part to another until he knows not which is cleaned and which is untouched. A good groom, on the contrary, first takes a horse's head by the ears if cold, and rubs them gently until they are perfectly dry and warm. This is particularly necessary if the horse have come off a journey, and is heated, for nothing tends to render a horse so uncomfortable as to have his head wet and cold. The principal part of the mud and dirt, if there be any, being rubbed or scraped off, he next proceeds to rub the legs with a large whisp of dry straw, and continues this operation until they become perfectly warm ; after which a dry roller is loosely applied to each, to be replaced by others when the horse is left to himself. Very many grooms are in the habit of washing the legs and feet as soon as a horse comes in, but this is treatment to which I most decidedly object. If we consider for a moment that the circulation is

greatly accelerated by exertion, and that the legs and feet of all parts are perhaps the fullest of blood when a horse has been ridden fast, it will not require any conjuror to shew us the impropriety of plunging them into cold water, thereby checking the perspiration, even though bandages be immediately afterwards applied. This mode of treatment frequently produces rheumatism or grease (the latter perhaps from excessive reaction, the former from the want of it), and I am of opinion that it also very often lays the foundation of that chronic inflammation of the feet which terminates in flattened soles or completely pumiced feet. Always, therefore, insist upon your horse being perfectly cool before his feet be washed; and as for his legs, if you take my advice, you will never suffer them to be washed at all after severe work; the sponge and water-brush being at best a lazy substitute for the whisp and body-brush. The circulation being well established in the extremities, your groom should then begin to whisp the head and jaws, and proceed regularly with the neck, shoulders, fore-hand, body, particularly the belly, and hind-quarters. They should each be afterwards well brushed, and then rubbed over with a damp hay whisp, after which a good strapping with a dry cloth will complete the business. The fore-lock, mane, and tail being well

combed and brushed, the clothes may next be put on, and then the eyes, nose, and lips may be cleaned with a damp sponge (which, by the bye, should be used to the eyes first lest they should receive any discharge from the nose); and the under part of the tail and cleft between the quarters should be similarly treated. These things done, let your horse's feet be washed out, *but not his heels*; let the bandages be removed, the legs well rubbed again, and clean dry bandages be applied. Should a horse come in fatigued and distressed, from a hard day's hunting we will say, do not plague him with all the cleaning and dressing I have recommended, but take the mud off him, whisk him over till he be dry, clean his feet out and stop them, bandage his legs, and then, making him a good soft bed, give him half a pailful of white water (a mixture of oatmeal and water), if he have not already had it, with what corn you consider necessary, and leave him to himself. For the sake of cleanliness let your horse's heels be well washed twice or thrice a week, when he is not in work, with soft soap and hot water. They must afterwards be perfectly dried with a rubber and the naked hand.

I have now told you how a horse is to be well groomed; but a man, who, as far as hard work goes, may perfectly well suit you, may neverthe-

less be a very improper person to whom to trust the care of your horses. No ill-tempered man should ever look after a horse for me, if he were in other respects as good a groom as I could wish to have. When you have a surly, bullying fellow in your stable, your horses soon get terrified at the approach of any one, jump from one side of the stall to the other when told to "come over," and, instead of shewing confidence in the man who looks after them, will perhaps scarcely allow themselves to be handled without flying about as though they expected a blow. Such a fellow, though he be perfect master of his business, is totally unfit to have the care of horses, gentleness being one of the very best qualities a groom can possess. With a bad-tempered fellow in your stable, you perpetually find your horses with fresh scars in some part or other—about the head commonly—or with swelled hocks or knees; and if you ask how they became so, you will be told that "the horse got loose in the night," or "he cut or bruised himself by rolling;" whereas, if you knew the truth, you would be well aware that either kicks or blows with the pitchfork were the cause of the mischief. If these disasters frequently occur, try if a change of servants will not prove a cure for them. A man who loses his temper with a horse, be he riding, driving, or cleaning him, is almost sure to

do him an injury, and at the time of inflicting it does not stop to consider whether it may be great or little. I remember a short time ago being on a long coach, and sitting beside an excellent dragsman, who handed me his whip, which a good judge of coaching had made a present to him. On the handle were engraved the words "Keep your temper;" and it would be well if this motto were hung up in every stable as a hint to grooms and their helpers.

CHAPTER X.

ON FEEDING.

I SHALL now proceed to consider perhaps the most important part of the treatment of horses—their food, and the mode of giving it. In writing upon this portion of my subject I beg it to be understood that it is my intention only to treat of the best method of getting a horse into condition for hard work, and not to notice the various modes of feeding to which many people resort who have but little employment for their horses—turning them out to grass for instance on idle days, and only giving them a few oats preparatory to using them. A horse may assuredly be *kept* in this way, but good condition can never be acquired by such a mode of treatment.

The principal food of horses in the stable is hay and oats, and consequently it behoves every master of horses to be a good judge of their quality. The hay given to your horses should be old upland meadow hay, bright, greenish, fragrant, and not too dry and crisp: it ought indeed to be in a trifling

degree tough, and not to crackle when twisted in the hand, thereby denoting that it has preserved its juices and nutritious qualities. Many people are in the habit of never giving any other than meadow hay to their horses, but I am by no means an advocate for this system, neither do I think it at all necessary. Provided the *quantity* of hay you allow your horses in the day be not too great, they will be gratified by a slight change in their diet now and then; and you may therefore with great propriety let them have an occasional handful of sainfoin hay, or of white clover and bents (rye-grass), although most people will assert that by so doing you will inevitably ruin your horse's wind. Those who say so, however, have never made the experiment themselves, or have made it improperly, by allowing their groom to stuff a horse with hay until he be completely surfeited, or by giving it in too new a state, when, like every other species of vegetable matter, it will produce acidity and flatulence. I have known post-horses that never had any other hay than white clover and bents, which is very strong and hearty food, and whose wind was by no means affected by such diet. We all know that these horses are not spared when at work, and therefore they form a good criterion to judge of the effects of such food. The allowance of hay for every

horse is, in nineteen stables out of twenty, two trusses per week ; but you may take my word for it that one-half this quantity is amply sufficient. I consider eight pounds of hay per diem to be quite as much as any horse in quick work should be allowed to eat, and those who give them more go the right way to work to breed listlessness, dulness, and disease. I will tell you how this cramming with hay proves injurious to a horse. Of all animals the horse, in comparison to his size, has the smallest stomach, and consequently his food, when hard work is required of him, should contain as much nutriment as possible in the smallest compass ; for remember that the origin of impaired digestion, and consequently the cause of most diseases, is distention of the stomach and bowels, by which they become debilitated, and their secretions vitiated ; the natural and inevitable result of which is general weakness of the whole system. How then can any horse possess vigour and sprightliness who is allowed to swallow as much hay at a time as he will eat, when a large quantity of this species of food does not contain sufficient nutriment of itself to keep a horse in condition who is not even worked at all ? The food of horses, whatever it may consist of, should at all times be small in quantity, and of the very best quality ; for as we require great

exertions from them, so must we take the best means to provide them with the most nutritious sustenance without over-taxing their powers of digestion.

Hay that is at all mow-burnt is very liable to produce gripes or flatulent cholic; as likewise is that which has been recently made, and has not, as it is called, completely *sweated* in the stack. Indeed horses that are expected to perform hard work should never be allowed to eat hay less than eight months old. Many people like it better when two years old; for my own part I would as soon give so much straw; but *sua cuique voluptas*.

Your oats should be at least a twelvemonth old, bright, clear, full, without smell of any kind, and weighing at least forty pounds per bushel. Many people prefer black oats to white; for my own part, provided the weight of both be equal, and they be equally well kept, I do not think it matters much which of the two you use—horses will work as well when kept on the one as on the other. Nevertheless it is certainly a difficult matter to obtain black oats of as fine a quality as the white potato oat, inasmuch as they will generally be found to contain more *heads and tails* than the latter; and therefore those who are not simply satisfied with good oats, but will procure the very best, will be more likely to find the great

desiderata of weight and plumpness in some species of the white than in the black oat. A horse of good constitution, and in regular and moderate work, should not have less than four quarters of oats (weighing forty pounds per bushel) in the course of the day. Oats of the above weight may be thus given by measure, and they are by far better than a larger quantity of oats of less weight. It is the most absurd plan to feed a horse by measure without reference to the weight of his corn. I have been frequently asked by friends how it happened that their horses, with an allowance of food equal to that given to my own, and with perhaps less work, never looked in condition; and have found on examination that they never chose their own corn, but suffered a corn-chandler to send them what he pleased; so that they were often feeding with oats that to all appearance were the light seeds blown aside by the winnowing machine, and were only fit to keep poultry alive. No horse can of course be expected to thrive and stand his work upon such diet; therefore be particular, when you purchase oats, to see them weighed; and for this purpose turn out one third of the oats in the sack, and weigh a bushel from the middle, for here you will often find them of an inferior quality both as regards weight and cleanliness.

If you work your horses hard they must be allowed either a larger quantity of oats than I have specified, or you must mix with them a few handfuls of old and sweet beans. This is good hearty food for a horse of strong constitution; but some horses of a foul habit of body will not endure being fed for any length of time on beans without exhibiting symptoms of heat of body somewhere—generally by greasy or cracked heels, or by scurf and surfeit. With a horse of this description you must every now and then—say three times a fortnight—adopt the plan of giving half a pailful of bran mash instead of a feed of corn, giving him at the same time half an ounce of nitre in his water; or you may add a double handful of dry bran to his oats every day, or whenever the state of his bowels requires it.

Peas are a very good substitute for beans, and, according to the analysis which has been made of both, contain rather more nutritious matter in a given quantity. They are not, however, in very general use, and as I have not employed them as food for horses myself, I shall not make any further remarks upon them—those which I have already made, and intend making, being purely the result of observation and experience. For the same reason I shall content myself with saying that a small quantity of barley added to oats is

by many recommended as excellent food for horses; but as I have not given it a trial, I can say nothing respecting it from personal experience.

When horses are worked very hard, as for instance in stage-coaches, the practice of giving what is called manger-meat alone has been adopted, and with great success, according to the statement of those who have given this plan a trial. Manger-meat is nothing more than a mixture of corn with hay cut into chaff instead of being put into the rack. The advocates of this plan assert that a horse required to go through much work finishes his food quicker than with rack-meat before him, lies down sooner, and consequently has a longer period for rest than he would if treated in the usual way. This may be very true as regards some horses, but there are in fact very few who lie down directly after feeding; and I imagine that a great proportion of horses, after having finished their manger-meat, will pick over their straw, and eat such parts of it as are not much soiled, in preference to lying down. The Americans, I believe, in addition to chopping up their horses' hay, grind their oats coarsely, and mix the whole together. For farm-horses while baiting such a plan may be a good one; but horses used for pleasure are generally allowed plenty of time for feeding, and there can there-

fore neither be any necessity for adopting this system with them, nor should I ever recommend it, as I think many a horse after a fatiguing day's work would in this manner be induced to swallow a greater proportion of hay than he would were it not mixed with corn. Horses again that have weak stomachs, and are shy feeders, take a long time before they will eat a sufficient quantity of food to keep them in condition; and if a large mess of hay and corn be placed before them, will take a few mouthfuls perhaps, and blow upon the rest until they take a disgust to it, and refuse it altogether. There is many a hunter of this description not fit probably to take the field more than once a-week, but who, when out, does his work in a style that makes him invaluable to a man who can afford to keep a large stud, and is therefore worth nursing. If you cram his manger with food, the animal will, in all probability, not touch one particle of it; you visit him hour after hour, and find his corn untouched, and himself dispirited from want of nourishment. What is to be done with such a horse? I will tell you. You have over-taxed his powers—you have thought of nothing but keeping the lead; and when your horse has flagged under you, you have roused him with bit and spur; and, despite the warning voices of heaving sides and shaking tail,

of which some brother sportsman has perhaps given you notice, you have crammed along to the finish, and found that you had just killed in time, for your horse had already cried "hold, enough!" The excitement of the moment past, you perhaps lead your horse part of the way home (if you are the man I hope you are), and jog him on to his stable to have your fears of "having come it rather too strong" confirmed by finding your trusty steed refuse his corn and shew other evident symptoms of distress. If you are enough of a Veterinarian to be able to judge of the state of his pulse, and no symptoms of congestion of the lungs betray themselves, it *may* happen that a little warm ale and ginger may be advantageous to him; but as there is risk in giving stimulants after hard work, unless you have "good store of veterinary science" to guide you, after having seen him made pretty comfortable, give him (and this drink you should accustom him to lest he refuse it when you wish him to take it) half a quartern or more of oatmeal made into porridge or gruel with a small quantity of boiling water—stirring in the oatmeal in small quantities, and keeping the whole simmering, diluted with linseed tea. This last may be made by putting half a pint of linseed into a gallon of boiling water, and placing it close to the fire for some hours, after which set it aside

to get cold. On hunting days this should be prepared while you are out, and be ready for use on your return. The linseed tea, on cooling, gets very thick and glutinous, and contains as much nourishment as with the oatmeal is sufficient for a horse whose powers of digestion are for a time enfeebled. If your horse drink this mixture, you may put a lock of sweet hay in his rack, a few handfuls of oats in one corner of his manger, and as much beans in another, with perhaps a couple of chopped carrots, and it is ten to one, unless he be severely overmarked, but he will soon nibble sufficient of one or the other to sustain him until his appetite completely returns.

It is by no means an uncommon notion, that, if horses are to be got into condition for work they should be allowed to drink a very small quantity of water. On what physiological basis this opinion is founded, I confess appears to me to be a perfect mystery. Nevertheless as many persons adopt this treatment, it is fitting to notice it. For my own part I have ever found that it is an extremely bad plan to stint a horse in his water, and have consequently always made a practice of leaving plenty of it at all times within reach of every horse I have had. Of course I do not intend to say that when a horse comes in heated from exercise he should be suffered to drink, or should have

a bellyful of water just prior to being ridden ; but, if a horse be watered *ad libitum* in the morning, he will not require to drink again for some hours, and should never be allowed to do so then unless perfectly cool. Those horses that are only supplied with a limited quantity of water at a time, and are never permitted to slake their thirst fully, will be much more liable to be griped, if at any time they by chance should drink their fill, than those who are always suffered to take as much as Nature dictates to them: but, should a horse have been hard-worked, and come into his stable very hot, I would, after having seen him well dried, only at first give him a small quantity, for two reasons: first, because his eagerness for water may lead him to drink more at a time than is good for him ; and secondly, because a large quantity of water will probably cause him to break out into a cold sweat, in which he may remain all night if not looked to. After having taken a third, or less, of a stable pailful of water, he should be kept without any for some time, and then be allowed to take what he pleases. When, however, you intend to stint your horse in this way, do not suffer your groom to offer him a pailful of water, and to take it from him when he has drunk a small portion of it, but let just the quantity you wish him to have, and no more, be

given to him; he will then feel to a certain degree satisfied with what he gets: whereas, by taking from him what he expects to have, he becomes fretful and discontented. In the first instance he makes up his *mind* to slake his thirst with a short allowance of water; whereas in the second his just expectations are balked in mid career, and his imagination cheated as it were in the height of his enjoyment: and there is much more in this than may be generally supposed. Physiologists are well aware of the connexion existing between the stomach and brain; and those who have not inquired into this fact must either do so before they attempt to refute it, or take what I have stated as proved.

What I have said with respect to giving a horse water while he is hot applies equally to his food. Never suffer a horse to feed until he is cool. After fatigue of body, the stomach of all other parts is perhaps the least capable of exertion; and although in some cases of severe exercise a slight degree of sustenance may be requisite to support the strength and stamina of every living animal, it should always be administered in moderation; and for this purpose I know of nothing better than the gruel I have already recommended. It is a light species of diet when not given too abundantly, against which the stomach will seldom

rebel, and it is always proper that this organ, like any other, should be in good tone before its work—that of digestion—be required of it; and as, when a horse is violently heated, the blood is propelled by the heart in a much greater ratio than usual, the stomach, being consequently supplied with a greater quantity of blood within a given time than it would have received without undue excitement, is as unfitted to perform its task while under the influence of that stimulus, as the eye would be to bear a strong light after having been irritated by some heating application. Let your horse then remain quiet for some time after he has done his work, and he will not only feed the better for it, but will likewise digest what he eats.

There are not a few masters of horses, who, from a mistaken feeling of kindness, like always to see a good quantity of food before them, in order that *they may never be hungry*; not stopping for a moment to consider the degree of injury they occasion by this perpetual cramming, but vainly imagining that every extra mouthful a horse swallows is so much added to his strength and condition. We cannot, of course, expect the brute creation to act as rational beings, or to be able to resist the temptation of eating more than is good for them; and therefore the first symptom of

loathing food, which is the necessary consequence of perpetual repletion, is a proof that the powers of the stomach have been overtaxed, and that it requires the same rest—only for a much longer period—as does the body generally after severe exercise. Next to the quantity and quality of your horse's food, there is nothing that will tend so quickly to put him into condition as giving it at stated hours and at regular intervals. After a meal proportioned to his work—say from a quarter to a quartern and a half of oats—four hours is the very least period that should be allowed to elapse before your horse is again fed ; and during this time (unless he have been worked so hard that you wish him to lie down) his head should be fastened so that he may not be able to get at his straw, which very many horses will eat, no matter how soiled it may be. A horse in regular and fair exercise should have but very little, if any, hay in the middle of the day ; but a small quantity may be given in the early part of the morning, and a sufficient portion at night to make up his daily allowance of about eight pounds—not more. Although corn is certainly more nutritious than hay, yet if you increase your number of feeds of oats, and deprive your horses entirely of hay, it is surprising how quickly some of them will lose flesh.

I have tried this, and, unless it be on the principle of the stomach being pleased with a change of aliment, cannot satisfactorily account for the fact.

Business of various kinds will sometimes compel you to alter your hours of feeding, but regularity should always be adhered to as strictly as possible; for after having been for some time accustomed to be fed at a certain time, nature will crave food at the usual hour, even though the previous meal may have been more than commonly abundant. A horse that is generally taken out in the forenoon, if fed twice in the morning, should have the larger portion of his food at his first meal; and if he be required to work on most days from about nine till one or two, the better plan is to divide his corn into three feeds instead of four. This is preferable to working him on a full stomach, than which few things in time are likely to prove more injurious.

It is a common practice not to allow a horse any hay whatever on the night before he is hunted; and what is the consequence? Unless he be muzzled, he will eat straw instead of hay; and if the muzzle be used, he will either fret from being unused to it, or from his knowledge of the work to be done on the following day. Give your hunter, therefore, an extra allowance of corn at night, if you please; but let him have a lock of hay, just

to satisfy his feelings, and leave him nothing to expect; he will then lie down, unconscious of anything extraordinary being in store for him, and will be proportionally fresh and lively after his night's rest. On the morning of hunting, hay must certainly not be allowed, but some extra corn (which will lie in a smaller compass, and be more invigorating) be substituted for it.

What more shall I say on this most interesting subject? It is a prolific one; and were I to enter upon an explanation of the mode in which improper treatment in the one simple item of feeding leads, by vitiating the blood, and consequently every secretion of the different organs of the body, to disease of the gravest and most intractable character, I might perhaps be thought

“Crispini scrinia lippi
Computasse.”—

I will therefore sum up by saying, “Never overload the stomach, and the back will bear the greater load for it.”

Courteous reader! my labours draw to a close. Yet a few words on the subject of exercise, clo-

thing, and peradventure on the treatment of your horse while on a journey, together with some ἵπια πτεροεντὰ anent clipping, singeing, and shaving, and we shake hands, with a fervent wish on my part that my lucubrations on the subject of horse-flesh may perchance have opened your eyes on some points which you have hitherto but imperfectly understood, or totally misconceived; and that I may hereafter have occasion to find that I have “sown seed that has brought forth good fruit,” by improving the general treatment of an animal on which, as Mr. Kenwigs, in “Nicholas Nickleby,” says, “Evins itself looks down.”

Let us now proceed to consider the all-important subject of exercise, without a sufficient quantity of which your horse's powers can never be fully developed. Regular work, *proportioned to the strength of your horse*, so far from diminishing his size, as many persons are apt to imagine, will on the contrary materially increase it. Look at the arm of the blacksmith, which is constantly employed in plying a heavy hammer, and you will immediately be satisfied that its girth is greatly augmented by his unremitting labour. Fat it certainly is not, but that substance I do not take into consideration in speaking of the condition of horses, for it is one which must invariably be got rid of before they can possibly be rendered capable of

great and continued exertion. Purgative medicine and repeated sweating are the two means best adapted for removing adipose matter, and these must be resorted to at first in a moderate degree ; for if by over-work you reduce the stamina of your horse, he will not only lose fat, but likewise flesh or muscle, which it should be your aim to preserve and enlarge. A good appetite, together with a glossy coat, clear wind, firmness of muscle, and a sprightly disposition, will always inform you that your horse is thriving ; whereas the reverse will indicate that your system of training is too severe. When a well-conditioned horse is at work, the play of his muscles should be distinctly visible, which can never be the case when he is loaded with fat.

Do you wish to have recourse to sweating for the purpose of reducing a horse, never on any account, if you are aware of it, suffer your groom to physic him with antimony—a practice of which they are extremely fond, and which is of a most injurious nature. Antimony acts only on the skin by disagreeing with the stomach ; in fact, all nauseating substances—of which this drug is one of the most powerful—operate in a similar manner ; and no person ever yet felt sick without being at the same time bathed more or less with perspiration. Trust simply to exercise, with or without

blankets and hoods, as the condition of your horse may seem to require ; and proportion the pace and the degree of weight upon his back to the quantum of sweating you wish him to undergo. It is a good plan, when your object is to obtain profuse perspiration, to exercise in deep ground—a fallow-field for instance—and then either trot, canter, or gallop according to the heaviness of the ground, the condition of your horse, and the weight he carries. The moment his work is completed, let him be trotted briskly to his stable, and set two or three men first to scrape off the sweat—which should be done quickly—and then to rub him perfectly dry ; and do not forget the loose bandages to his legs, and the other directions I have already given while on the subject of cleaning. Perfectly dry clothes should of course be substituted for those in which he has taken his gallop ; and after he has been made in every way comfortable, he should be left to himself, taking care to examine from time to time whether he break out in any part afresh. This he will be very apt to do when first put in training, and will be less and less liable to the more his condition improves.

With respect to removing fat by purgatives, if you are not yourself a good judge of the operation of these medicines, you should first take the opinion of some clever veterinary surgeon ere you

attempt to meddle with them. A round-barrelled, trussy horse of a hardy constitution will bear a dose of medicine which would be destruction to a slight and narrow-gutted one, and you should therefore be extremely cautious how you administer such quantities as you may occasionally see prescribed as *physic* in veterinary works, without previously ascertaining, as far as you can, the capabilities of your horse for sustaining their operation. For the purpose of taking off fat, and at the same time of improving your horse's stamina, active purgation is seldom required, and therefore you must never think of giving such doses as would be prescribed for the treatment of inflammation. Such a practice, so far from doing good, would render your horse weak and languid for several days, and prevent him only from taking any but the most moderate exercise. Generally speaking, from three or four drachms of aloes are quite sufficient for your purpose; and they may be occasionally repeated as circumstances may require. Previous to giving physic, keep your horse for half a day at least on bran-mashes, which species of food, with a little hay, must be all that is allowed him until his dung becomes tolerably firm, or, in stable language, is *set*. Without this precaution you will run the risk of inducing gripes. Water with the chill taken off should also be

given during the operation of a purgative, and the horse be kept tolerably warm. Walking exercise will at first be all that he will comfortably endure after his ball has left off working him, and this must be increased by degrees.

Having by this means brought your horses into such a state as to enable them to stand hard work, it should be your care, by regular exercise and careful attention to their diet, grooming, and other matters connected with their well-doing, to see that they are not suffered to fall off in strength and condition.

It is a good plan to give every horse, be his general work what it may within the bounds of moderation, some gentle exercise early in the morning before his first feed is given him. The morning air both gives him an appetite, and improves, by its invigorating influence, the healthy tone of every organ of the body, and exercise at this time should therefore never be neglected.

The training of either hunters or race-horses is conducted on the self-same principles ; the grand *arcana* of which are comprised in a knowledge of their constitutional treatment in the single article of diet, and in giving them regularly as much exercise as their strength will endure with advantage to themselves. I speak not here of what their *legs* will bear in the way of work ; for, if they are

so faulty as to be an impediment to active exertion, the sooner they are put out of training the better.

Trainers in general are too fond of employing physic, of the operation of which in nine times out of ten they are grossly ignorant. To be convinced of this, you have only to listen to the jargon they will run over to you of the action of the simplest remedies—a liniment, for instance, which they frequently, nay almost invariably, use for a strain of any kind, and that immediately after it has occurred, when its application may be highly injurious. How often have I been told, when I have asked on what *principle* they chose to rub in a strong liniment to an inflamed part, “Why, Sir, I do it *to sweat out the inflammation!*” and yet these are men to whose care the most valuable horses in the kingdom are entrusted, and who are allowed to physic and even to bleed them whenever they in their wisdom deem it necessary. I remember once predicting the loss of a race by a horse who would otherwise in all probability have won with ease, when his trainer told me, that, after having run two severe races on that day, he had prepared him for running the following morning by giving him an ounce and a half of nitre and a bran-mash *to cool him*. When I explained to him that by thus irritating the kidneys and

bowels he drew off a large portion of the liquid particles of the blood, he seemed as though a new light had dawned upon him, as I sincerely trust it did. His horse no doubt would have run stouter had his stamina not thus been reduced ; as it was he lost his race, and no great wonder. There is, however, in mankind in general a hankering after being thought skilled in medicine, and few people will be found who have not nostrums for most diseases, and of course recommend a similar mode of treatment for every case. I am quite as convinced that a horse once put into condition may be kept so by good feeding, good grooming, and good exercise, unless he fall ill, as I am that the less medicine a man in good health and of regular habits takes the better for him. A horse's habits and mode of life, while under the direction of man, must or ought to be more regular than those of a human being, and consequently the perpetual physickings that are prescribed in most racing tables cannot fail to be prejudicial.

Let then your horse's work be proportioned to his powers of endurance ; pay strict attention to his diet, to cleanliness, &c. ; do not allow your groom to tamper with medicine, and to fancy himself an Esculapius or a Professor Coleman ; and so shall the work you get out of your stud be proportionally increased, your veterinary surgeon's

bill be diminished, and your purse the weightier by the price of some few horses, which by a different mode of treatment might have been either rendered useless, or have graced the kennel coppers.

Before I conclude this portion of my subject, let me remark, that it is a mistaken notion to suppose that, to keep a horse in readiness to undergo quick work, it is necessary that he should be galloped daily at the top of his speed. Such an idea prevails among many who are ignorant of the mode in which race-horses—of whom the most active exertions are occasionally required—are trained. No horse indeed would be able for any length of time to undergo this species of labour. Of this fact I have lately had an example. A friend of mine, being desirous of himself training a horse for a steeple-chase, was in the daily habit of giving him a fast gallop of two or more miles; and the consequence of this treatment was, that at the moment when he was wanted to run his race, he was seized with inflammation, and had to be copiously bled and physicked. He was nevertheless a strong and hardy animal, and supported the exertions demanded of him for a considerable period, until at length nature gave way under the repeated trials to which he was subjected, and very serious injury was the result.

A daily hand-gallop at a very moderate pace, with an occasional smart brush, is all that is requisite to keep a horse that is already in good condition in proper wind, and fit at any moment to "go the pace." For my own part, I must say that I have never had horses more ready to go through fast work than blood hacks that were out at all times and in all weathers, proper care being of course invariably taken of them in the stable after the manner which I have recommended. Some people fancy that horses that are made to "rough it," as they term it—that is, left to stand in the cold for hours, and kept perhaps without clothes—are more hardy and more fit for severe work than those to whose comforts more care and attention are paid; but independently of their usual bad appearance, I am well convinced that this is a serious error, and that a fair trial between the powers of a horse comparatively neglected in the stable in all but the quantity of his food, and those of one carefully looked after in every respect, will, *cæteris paribus*, prove that the strength of the latter is infinitely the more enduring of the two.

So much then, in a few words, for exercise; a subject upon which undoubtedly much more might be written, and with very great advantage too. I shall, however, not dive deeper into this portion

of my *opusculum*, both because its limits are not very extended, and because it is but just to leave every one's judgment to do a little without fettering it in every instance by rules which never can be applicable to all cases. The main point for consideration is, "What is the quantum of work your horse is capable of supporting without overtaxing his powers?" and this being once ascertained, proportion his exercise to his strength, according to the best of your judgment, and observe carefully, from time to time, whether he improve under your system of management, or appear to fall off in condition. In either case, you must act according to circumstances, and allow rest or increase exercise as may appear requisite.

With respect to clothing your horse, unless on raw foggy mornings, it is unnecessary to allow them any covering while at exercise. Race-horses are almost always taken out in their clothes; but, if their constitution be naturally good, and they are not required to sweat, I cannot but think that they are rendered more tender and more liable to take cold by such a practice. Moreover, it is with them, in some cases, attended with this inconvenience, that after having long been accustomed to gallop in clothes, they are actually obliged to race

in them ; and although they will of course count as so much dead weight, they hold the wind in some degree, and consequently retard speed.

In the stable your horses should always have clothes enough to keep them warm, but not hot. Grooms are generally too fond of heaping rugs and blankets upon their horses, for the purpose of improving the appearance of the coat ; but depend on it that too warm clothing not only renders a horse more susceptible of cold than he should be, but also diminishes the size and firmness of his muscles. Employ then the " just mean ;" and however pretty may be the appearance of a smart and thick rug, covered by a gay body-cloth, and this again surmounted by a hood thrown over the quarters, with the ears neatly peeping up behind the rollers, do not sacrifice your horse's well-being to appearances, which may be all very well in the show-stables of a London dealer, but are uncalled for in those of a Sportsman. If your horse be clipped or singed, he will of course require additional clothing, for a time at least : and this leads me to say a few words on these operations as well as on that of shaving.

CHAPTER X.

ON CLIPPING, SINGEING, &c.

I know of few modern improvements in the treatment of horses so great as that of taking off the rough coat of a horse that is required to do much work ; and, if it be done early in the winter—some time, for instance, during the month of November—not only is there no danger, in nine cases out of ten, of his taking cold, but the benefit he will derive from it will generally be surprising to those who have not been accustomed to witness its good effects. A horse with a long rough coat, that defied the art of man to dry after it was once well wetted, and whose fate was accordingly to remain cold and comfortless for hours, will, after having been clipped, absolutely dry in the short space of ten minutes, even after sharp work ; and, what is of still greater consequence, dry will he remain, without the slightest chance of his breaking out into a sweat. Oh ! the delights of bring-

ing in your favourite hack or hunter after a smart gallop, and finding him dry and comfortable, and ready for his food, hours before he would have touched a morsel with his thick and saturated coat hanging about him ; to say nothing of groom's labour saved and time gained ! I am certain that those who once adopt the system of clipping their horses on the approach of winter, if their coats be long, will ever after be ready to acknowledge the incalculable advantages obtained by it, let those who rail against it on the score of its being unnatural, and of the new coat appearing late in the spring, say what they will.

The " Good Old English Gentleman's " cry of sticking to nature, as far as possible, is a mere wilful determination not to abandon old crotchets, and to shut the eyes and the senses against all innovations—whether improvements or not—that are introduced by the " New School " of Sportsmen, who require their horses to go now-a-days at a pace that would soon have pumped the wind out of our fat " ale-and-chine-of-beef " grandsires. Let those who deny this fact take a punchy, round-rumped, and well-fed gelding—" one of the olden time," if he can find such an animal—comfortably wrapped in his own natural Upper-Benjamin of long and thick hair ; and when hounds break covert with a good scent, let him

stand high in his stirrups, according to the most approved antique sporting prints, and seduce his Bucephalus into his very best pace, and he will soon discover, that, although it may be sufficient to prove, for the remainder of the day and night, that his coat is anything but water-proof, although it will hold water well, it cannot be put in competition with that of the well-bred hunter of the present day, inured to quick work, instead of dragging for hours after a pack about as fast as would be one composed of Newfoundlands, and divested of his pea-jacket that he may recover the quicker from the effects of his work.

The next best operation to clipping, when this has been too long delayed, is singeing. With care and pains you may singe a horse's coat off nearly as close as it can be removed by the scissors. Any groom, if he have once seen a horse singed, should be quite capable of singeing one himself. For this purpose, have a piece of iron, about four inches wide at the bottom, made in the shape of a Dutch-hoe, and inserted into a handle six or eight inches in length: round the bar at the bottom of the instrument wind some cotton (such as is sold for lamps) very evenly, and, having dipped it in naptha and lighted it, stroke the horse's coat down lightly with it, and repeat this operation

over and over again, until the hair be burnt as close to the skin as possible. While doing this, you must hold in your left hand a blunt table-knife, with which to scrape out the flame if it burn too long. This is most essentially necessary, or you will otherwise blister your horse's skin, besides leaving unsightly marks on his coat. The burnt hair must also be scraped off before the flame be re-applied. You should likewise never set the same part alight several times in succession without allowing the skin to cool, or you may, by pursuing this plan to any great extent, produce great irritation, if not actual fever, in some horses. When about to singe the neck, take care to turn the mane to the opposite side to that you are going to operate on, and pass a water-brush over the top of it, otherwise it may be disfigured by the flame running over it. It is much better to singe a horse by degrees—that is, by passing the iron over him for three or four days successively—than to burn all his coat off in one day; and, after the thickest part of the hair has been destroyed, one hour will at any time be sufficient to give the whole of his hide an extra burning. When a horse's coat is in tolerably good condition, you will frequently find it advantageous to singe him under the belly, near the flanks, and between the hind-legs. The hair grows long in these parts,

and will retain the wet for some time after the greater part of the body is dry.

With respect to shaving, my advice is that you never attempt it. Two years ago, I knew of several horses so treated that were all but killed by this foolish practice. When the operation of shaving a horse's hide is properly done, it will be left completely denuded of hair, and this will not grow in sufficient quantity to render exposure to the weather at all safe for some weeks. It is, therefore, in some respects cruel as well as impolitic, and that, which in moderation is extremely beneficial, becomes, when carried to extremes, a dangerous evil.

As I have promised to say a few words respecting the treatment of a horse on a journey, I will add a few remarks on that subject, albeit those I have already made under the head of preparing him for hard work generally may be considered equally applicable to every case of this description. The main points for consideration are, "what is the distance you have to go, and the time in which you are to accomplish it?" Presuming that you are one of those who will rather "take time by the forelock," than distress your horse by forcing him to make up by pace for the

hours you have consumed in the enjoyment of "creature-comforts," I have to recommend that he be fed full two hours before the time of starting, and that you begin your journey very leisurely, and proceed at an easy pace, well within your horse's powers, for the first ten miles, after which, as I think either old Markham or De Grey somewhat quaintly says, "In God's name begin your journey." If you have a strong, active, and hardy animal under you, step out moderately for another ten miles, ever taking advantage for this purpose of the level parts of the road, and easing your beast both up and down hill; for a declivity occasions almost as great a strain on the fore-legs as proportionally rising ground will upon the hind; and having ridden thus far, pull bridle, and walk your horse for a couple of miles or so, that he may recover himself in some measure, and get tolerably cool. Now put him into his stable, or a box if you can get one, and trust not to the tender mercies of an ostler to rub him perfectly dry. These gentry are too much accustomed to the rough treatment of farmers' nags and post-horses to pay any extraordinary degree of attention to a valuable hack without supervision. Moreover, if your horse be of full blood, it is ten to one but he will have the common trick of lashing out behind while being cleaned, which almost

all these horses have, and which to me is "right pleasaunt to behold." I love to see their little waywardness of temper disdainfully displayed in this manner; more especially as it very rarely arises from vice, for they constantly kick with the leg that is farthest from the person cleaning them, and seems to be only done as a vent for feelings which they cannot controul. Your ostler, however, who seldom handles an animal of this stamp, sees broken ribs and legs in every kick; and, unless you stand by and assure him your horse with gentle usage will not kick *him*, either bullies him and knocks him about *to make him quiet*, or leaves him to dry as he best may. Having then superintended the cleaning of your horse, water him moderately if perfectly cool, and give him about a quartern and a half of corn and beans, not more on any account, for that would only distend his stomach, and do him harm; then leave him to himself for a couple of hours ere you resume your journey. I confess I am one of those who never could admire the feats that are occasionally recorded of riding and driving horses enormous distances in the course of the day, and that too in a short space of time. I consider a journey of forty or fifty miles *per diem* as much as any humane man, fond of his horse, ought to perform. Let those who choose to go double the

distance boast of their exploits in this way if they please ; to my mind it is anything but creditable to them : and I can never forbear the thought that with respect to horse-flesh they are as ignorant as they are cruel. While a horse has any work to be done during the day, he should not be allowed any hay ; and if fed four times, the extra half-quartern allowed him in each feed will make up for any deficiency in this article of diet. At night let his feet be stopped, and all the other rules which I have laid down for his comfort be attended to. It is a very bad plan so to divide your work as to complete the last stage at night. Always, if possible, let your horse be housed early, that he may have plenty of time to rest before his next day's work ; and this also will give you an opportunity of looking to him oftener than you otherwise could, and of having clothes properly aired for him, if, as is frequently the case, you find the ostler prepared with a set that has been put on another horse *because he was wet*, and that are now destined for your horse because *they* are wet, and require to be dried. At almost all inn-stables a horse's back is the drying ground for damp clothes, but it will be your own fault if you suffer your hack to be used for this purpose.

After all that I have written upon the subject

of the general treatment of horses, it would be superfluous to say much more respecting the peculiar attention they may require when travelling. The main point is to endeavour to obtain for your horse as much care and as many comforts as he would experience in your own stables. If he be distressed, you may give him gruel; but no hack in good condition ever ought to be too severely pushed. It is only in the chase that this should possibly happen occasionally; for the man who has time enough, as I have supposed he *may* have by starting early, to go a certain distance with a horse well-prepared for work (and no other should be used), must ride him very unfairly or very injudiciously if he require nursing instead of taking solid food.

There remains now for me but one subject more to treat of, and that I shall dismiss very summarily—it is the well-worn topic of turning a horse to grass during the summer. So much discussion has taken place on this debateable ground that to repeat the arguments *pro* and *con* would be to tell a thrice or oftener told tale; and I can hardly hope that “*decies repetita placebit*.” I shall therefore put a few “civil questions” to those gentlemen-graziers who advocate the “summer-run” system.

Is not your horse turned out for the purpose of resting him, and of bringing round his legs, which begin to shew symptoms of work?

Is not a certain quantity of food at a time and at regular hours best for a horse?

Will grass put a horse in condition?

Do you not say that you turn him out to keep his feet cool and moist?

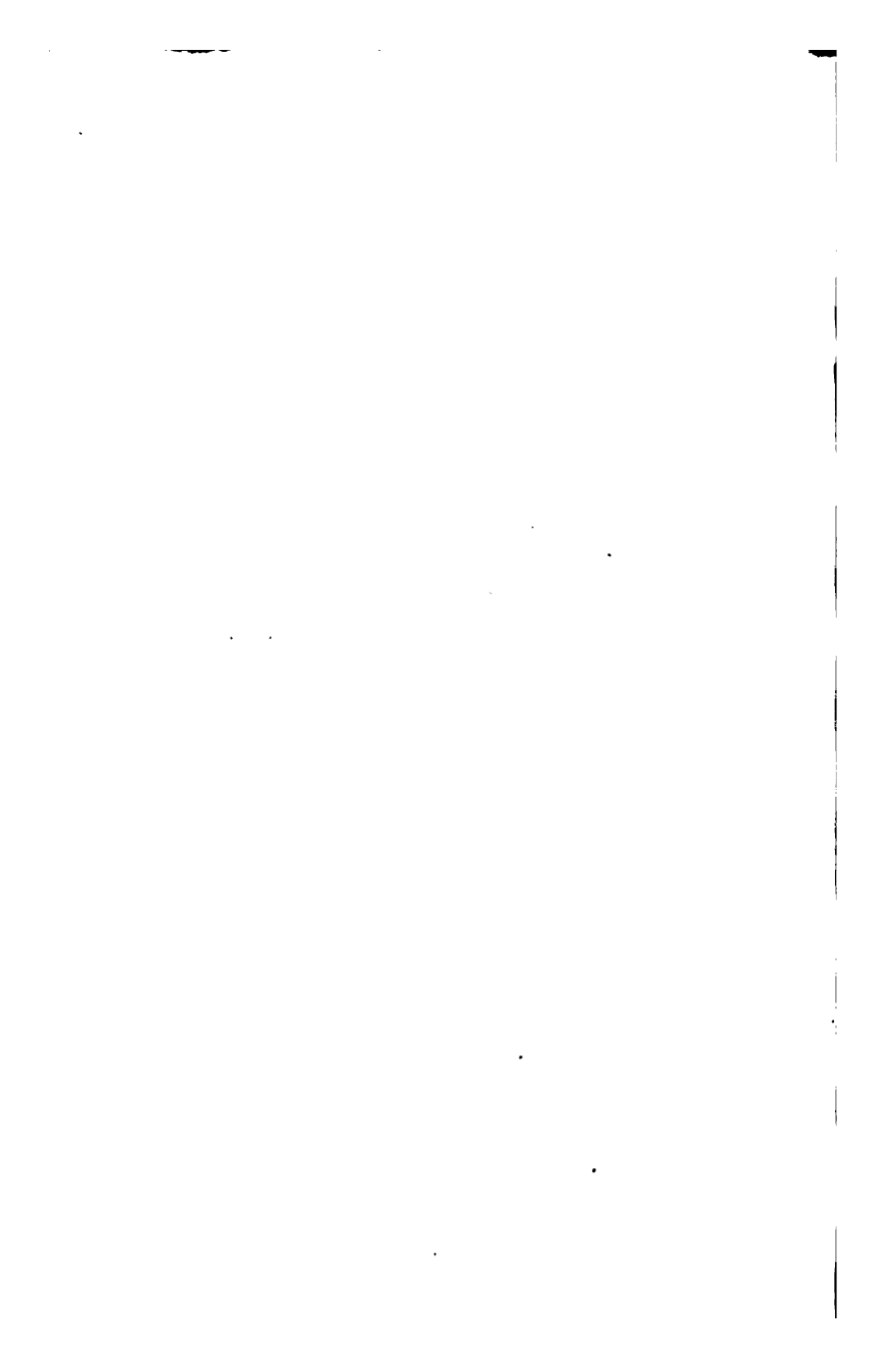
Now I should be glad to know whether a horse at grass will rest as much as one kept in a loose box, and led out every day *as long as is good for him*. Whether it is not better to feed him yourself on a certain quantity of food, giving green meat as a gentle physic if you will, than to suffer him to fill his belly from morning till night; and, in short, *never to have his stomach empty*. My third question I need not answer, as the first care of every man, on taking up his horse from grass, is to get rid of its bad effects by physic, grooming, and regular work: and as for the feet, if they cannot be kept sufficiently cool in the stable, why, as the Americans say, "it is a pity." For kicks, bruises, strains, coughs, roaring, broken-wind, staggers, &c. &c., let the sins of the grazer, who will alone suffer from them, be visited lightly upon his soul in purgatory, but not so lightly as on that of the man who increases his horse's comforts by personal superintendence in

the stable; and unremitting care from one year's end to the other.

Reader, be thou one of this latter genus, and I shall hope to have a little converse with thee when Old Charon shall have ferried us both across his "Whissendine" unto the plains where we may still "screw along" on our phantom favourites. To say truth, worthy Lector, I am loth to part with thee. Thou hast evinced no common share of patience if thou hast perused the "flowings of my phantasy" up to this point; and I am fain to look upon thee as my pupil, and one who is to do credit to my instructions hereafter. I may, therefore, yet renew our companionship on some future day, and on a subject equally dear to both; till when I pray thee to keep me in thy kind remembrance.

VALE !

FIRST TREATMENT
OF
SOME INJURIES AND DISEASES
TO WHICH
THE HORSE IS SUBJECT.



FIRST TREATMENT,

ETC. ETC.

IN the following pages I by no means intend to indicate the Veterinary treatment of those grave diseases to which all horses are occasionally liable, as this would be arrogating to myself a knowledge which, in all probability, I but imperfectly possess; but it is simply my wish to point out to masters of horses the *rationale* of the operation of those remedies which may with safety be employed in the absence of the Veterinary practitioner, and by whose agency the worst results of disease may possibly be successfully combated until sound medical advice can be procured.

This is, in many instances, a matter of far greater importance than may at first be imagined; inasmuch as—in the country especially—it very frequently happens that you do not reside within several miles of any Veterinary surgeon on whose

skill you can rely, and consequently, if you are yourself aware of the action of those remedies which appear to be indicated by the symptoms of disease or injury which manifest themselves, it will not only be perfectly needless to send for the nearest farrier—who will probably be unable to give you any satisfactory reason for the treatment he adopts—but you will also, in most cases, avoid the risk attendant upon ignorance, or, at least, want of judgment.

The greater number of cases requiring the immediate aid of Veterinary science are undoubtedly of an inflammatory type, and therefore I hold that it behoves every man to be aware of the symptoms and general treatment of inflammation, together with its nature and consequences. Do not imagine, however, that I design to weary you with a lengthened disquisition on this most important subject—to do full justice to which would very far exceed the limits of my treatise—as those who wish to acquire a perfect knowledge of it may very easily do so by consulting many medical works in which the arcana of inflammation are completely explained; whereas my object is merely to detail the means by which inflammation may be subdued—the symptoms indicative of its presence—and the mode in which it is excited.

Inflammation then is an increased action of the

heart and arteries. When this is confined to any particular part the inflammation is *local*; when general excitement takes place, *fever* is established. It is, however, extremely questionable if the latter be ever present by itself alone, in the horse, but general febrile action is invariably aroused by local inflammation, the whole system sympathising with the part affected. To understand the mode in which an injured part exhibits some of the symptoms of inflammatory action, it is necessary to know that the *primum mobile* of the whole of the blood circulating throughout the body is the HEART, which, by its contractions, propels this fluid through the blood-vessels, which ramify in every direction, gradually diminishing in size until they become so minute that the smallest needle cannot be inserted in any part of the skin and subjacent parts without giving exit to their contents.

When any part then receives an injury, the heart by sympathy soon takes the alarm, its action is forthwith increased, and it accordingly propels the blood with greater force than before, and consequently with greater velocity; and the blood-vessels of the diseased or wounded part have the inherent property of attracting to themselves a greater portion of the blood than they usually convey. Hence they become distended, and there-

fore is it that *Enlargement* or *Swelling* is one symptom of inflammation. *Heat*—the origin of which, though by many supposed to depend on the nervous system, still remains a mystery—is another leading symptom of inflammatory action; and the third is *Pain*, an invariable attendant on the same state.

Thus then, when you find swelling, heat, and pain in any particular part, you will have no doubt of its being inflamed; if you have, lay your finger on the pulse, and your doubts will be removed. The number of contractions in the horse's heart in a minute varies in its healthy state, according to the nature of the animal, from thirty-eight to forty-two; and as each contraction produces a correspondent beat in the arteries by the passage of the blood, forty strokes in the minute are the average number found in the pulse during a natural state of the system.

The pulse may be felt in any moderate-sized artery of the body, but you will most conveniently find it under the jaw-bone, near to that part where its upper and more circular part begins to merge into the lower and straighter portion. Here you may, without difficulty, feel a cord-like substance, nearly half as big as the little finger, and in which you will easily distinguish a pulsation of greater or less force, and more or less rapid, ac-

cording to the degree of inflammation, or irritation, which exists. Accustom yourself to judge of the natural state of a horse's pulse, and you will soon very readily be able to discriminate between its healthy and its morbid action.

Having ascertained the presence of inflammation, the next point to be considered is how to reduce it. When it is severe, this should be attempted both generally and locally, and thus is it effected.

Inflammation is attacked generally in two ways—by abstracting blood from the body, by which you not only leave a less quantity to be propelled to the inflamed part, but also diminish the action and power of the heart by taking away this its natural stimulus, and producing general weakness:—and by preventing the reaccumulation of this fluid through the medium of a spare and unstimulating diet; for all the nutritious particles of food are eventually transformed into blood, while those which are incapable of affording nourishment pass off in the form of *fœcal* matter. There are likewise medicines which tend to diminish the vigour of the heart's action, as antimony and digitalis, and which are therefore employed in cases of acute inflammation; but with these I have nothing to do, as “a little knowledge is a dangerous thing,” and I would therefore recom-

mend you never to tamper with medicines unless you are well satisfied of your own competency to employ them, as my object is simply to indicate what steps you may at first safely adopt in the absence of those who are qualified to direct the medical treatment of your stable.

Purgatives, to a certain extent, may, however, be resorted to in most cases of inflammation; and, by removing with the fæces a considerable quantity of fluid matter, they tend materially to diminish the vital power. In most cases of severe *external* inflammation, you may certainly take upon yourself to give a dose of physic, provided the necessity for it be urgent; and for this purpose you may administer from half a pint to a pint of linseed oil, according to your horse's constitution; and, if needful, add thereto a few drops of croton oil when speedy purgation is desired. Should this not be requisite, aloes is the usual medicine employed with a view to opening the bowels, and appears to be the best adapted to the nature of the horse. The dose, according to the degree of inflammation present and to the strength of the constitution, should be from three or four to five or six drams, to which may be added half a dram or a dram of calomel, and about a scruple of ginger. The whole may be made into a ball of the usual size with linseed meal, or li-

quorice powder, and any adhesive material, as honey, treacle, soap, and the like. If any doubt exist in your mind as to the propriety of giving physic, you can at any rate seldom go wrong in having your horse back-raked, and administering to him a glyster consisting simply of a gallon of thin and tepid gruel. This will relieve the intestines of a portion of their contents until the necessity for more active treatment be determined by your Veterinary Surgeon.

Nitre, in doses of from half an ounce to an ounce, may likewise be given in tepid water without danger of producing mischief. This medicine operates principally as a diuretic, and, by exciting the action of the kidneys, withdraws from the system a great quantity of fœcal matter under the form of urine. Recollect that I am now speaking of external injuries and their treatment; for in the case of inflammation of the bowels or kidneys, those medicines which tend to excite the action of either of these parts would of course be improper. Indeed, though I may hastily glance at the nature of some internal inflammations, I would rather do so with a view to arouse the curiosity of my reader on subjects of such interest, than to lay down any certain rules for their treatment, except in cases of great urgency.

We will now suppose that while out hunting

your horse has, in leaping, severely strained one of the back sinews of his leg. You find him dead lame, and, on dismounting, perceive that he immediately puts the affected leg forward and supports it solely on the toe. This leads you to examine it, and you find that, on passing your hand down the back part of the leg, the horse flinches, and shews signs of tenderness and pain in the part. You have some distance, we will say, to go before you reach home; and being far from any town where you are likely to procure good accommodation for your horse, and possibly good Veterinary advice, you make up your mind to get him back to his own stable if possible, so that he may rest in a place to which he is accustomed, and have the advantage of being constantly under your own immediate care and superintendence.

The first thing you do then is to lead your horse gently to the nearest piece of water: put his legs into it, and continue for several minutes to splash it over the affected limb; after which, take your pocket handkerchief, and having well soaked it in water, roll it carefully, but by no means very tightly, round the leg from above the knee down to the coronet. Now take a piece of string, if you have it, or the ribbon from your hat, pass it round the upper part of the handkerchief with sufficient tightness to keep it on with-

out impeding the action of the muscles, and turn down the top of the handkerchief over it to prevent it from slipping. Fasten the bottom part of the handkerchief loosely round the leg, and then set forward on your journey. Wherever you meet with a pool of water, stop and wet the handkerchief well with it, and sluice it over the limb for a few minutes. With these precautions you *may* reach home, if you have not any great distance to go, without your horse manifesting such decided symptoms of pain and lameness as would compel you to get him to the nearest stable, and leave him there; and a horse, like a human being, is always more satisfied and contented at home than elsewhere.

On reaching his stable, you remove the handkerchief, and find the part swollen and painful. Your horse still rests his leg upon the toe the moment he stands still, and the reason for this is, that such a position relaxes the tension of the tendons at the back of the leg, and throws them out of action, thereby affording relief to a certain extent. By the time the saddle and bridle have been removed, and the dirt brushed off, you fancy, and perhaps justly, that the swelling of the injured part is greater than it was: you handle it gently, and perceive that it is now burning hot, and that the pain has increased to such a degree that your

horse shews signs of impatience even when he sees your hand approach his leg. There is evidently considerable inflammation coming on, and if you lay your finger on the pulse, you find it not only quick, but full and jerking. The blood seems to be sent through the artery, if I may so express myself, with a bound, as though the heart at each contraction seemed to shrink from some unceasing source of irritation, instead of propelling the blood in its usual calm and equable manner. You send then for a Veterinary Surgeon, if there be a good one at hand, and, if not, you despatch a messenger for one on whose judgment you place reliance; but as hours must probably elapse before his attendance can be obtained, you resolve on taking the primary treatment of the case into your own hands. What then are the general, and what the local, measures you adopt? You have the four symptoms of inflammation present—viz. heat, swelling, pain, and excited action of the heart—and, moreover, you know that your horse has recently sustained such an injury as would probably give rise to these symptoms. There can, therefore, be no doubt whatever about the steps to be pursued in the first instance. If you are not expert in the use of the lancet, take a fleam (which is much the better instrument of the two in the hands of a person not in the habit of

bleeding), and remove three, four, or five quarts of blood according to the emergency of the case and the severity of the signs of inflammation present. Back-rake your horse, and give him a warm glyster, as you have not been able to prepare him for physic by previously keeping him on warm mashes for a day, and then administer to him four or five drams of aloes with one of calomel and a little ginger, made into a ball in the manner already mentioned, and mix six drams of nitre in his water. His diet must consist simply of warm bran mashes, and a very little hay; nor must any consideration tempt you to allow him corn or beans, let him testify what eagerness he may for such food. You must now await the operation of your remedies and the arrival of the Veterinary Surgeon, who will give further instructions respecting the treatment of your horse. In the meantime, however, let the leg be assiduously bathed for a considerable time with hot water of as high a temperature as can comfortably be borne; and when this has been done, take a large stocking, cut off the foot, and rolling the leg up till you can pass your finger through both ends at the same time, pass it gently over the hoof of the injured leg; fasten the bottom of it round the fetlock, and, drawing up the remainder, fill it with

bran soaked in hot water in which some unctuous substance is dissolved. This latter, when used in sufficient quantity, will prevent the bran from getting dry and hard, and should therefore never be omitted. The leg of the stocking should be fastened by a strong piece of tape sewn on each side and of sufficient length to pass over the horse's withers. The poultice should be repeatedly wetted with hot water, which can with facility be poured into the upper and open portion of the stocking. Be particular that, while you are pursuing this mode of treatment, the leg be never allowed to cool, as the inflammatory action, being then unrestrained, reappears with a degree of intensity proportioned to the temporary check it has sustained.

What! I hear you exclaim, am I to bring my horse home with a handkerchief dipped in *cold* water round his leg, and am I to lead him every now and then into some pond and throw the water over it, for the purpose of afterwards soaking the same part in *hot* water, and applying a hot poultice to it! Here is a pretty ignoramus, blowing hot and cold in a breath; quite ridiculous, by Jove!—" *Risum teneatis, amici?* "

Well done, O my Disciple; I like your incredulity, and am glad you think to have caught me

tripping, because I must now explain to you in what manner inflammation is arrested by the application of either cold or heat in a liquid form.

I have already told you, that in inflammation the blood-vessels of the inflamed part are greatly distended by blood, and as the action of cold is well known to produce contraction of the muscular fibre (which may be familiarly exemplified by the shrunk appearance of the features when exposed for any length of time to extreme cold), and every artery possesses a muscular coat, it follows that by the application of cold water in the first instance, you prevented the accumulation of blood in the seat of injury, which by the distention of the part alone would probably have induced such pain as would have compelled you to leave your horse on the road. Thus far then you seem to have done well, and can comprehend the *rationale* of such treatment. But, if cold water be capable of producing such good effects, why should you fly to hot, say you, which must bring about an opposite result?

Your reason then for using hot water is this. There is a set of vessels in the body called *exhalants*, which terminate by open mouths upon the skin, and give passage to the perspiration; and although by the employment of hot water you

favour the entrance of blood into the blood-vessels by relaxing their muscular coat, and thereby produce distention, you at the same time not only relax the surrounding parts so as to enable them to bear this distention, but at the same time produce a similar effect upon the exhalant vessels, the discharge from which materially lessens inflammatory action. Nor is the swelling occasionally observed after the use of hot water by any means to be altogether attributed to an increased quantity of blood in the blood-vessels, but rather to that relaxation of which I have spoken, which so greatly tends to diminish pain and uneasiness.

Thus you see that I have not blown hot and cold without sufficient reason for so doing ; and if you ask me why, since the result of either application is the same eventually, I have advocated a change from one to the other, I reply, that in the first instance cold was the only remedy at hand, and therefore you had no choice left you ; and that having done its duty in arresting inflammation for a certain period, I advise the use of hot fluids, because I think that they are more soothing to the system generally than are cold applications immediately after the receipt of any injury sufficiently grave to produce febrile excitement.

Such then would be the primary steps I should

pursue in the treatment of such a case as I have just brought under your notice, and in others of a similar nature.

Your object is ever the same, to subdue undue excitement by such means as tend to calm the action of the heart in the first instance, and to keep it in that state until Nature shall have got over the shock she has sustained, and to alleviate pain by the employment of such means as tend to diminish local distress.

Being thus made aware of the reasons for your adopting the measures I have recommended, you would doubtless stare to see your horse bled, and then immediately blistered over the seat of injury by any farrier whom you might send for ; and yet I do not in the least exaggerate when I declare my firm belief that nine out of ten of these men would employ both the means I have enumerated if requested to attend an accident of the nature of that we have just considered.

It is not long since I knew a mare irretrievably injured by a farrier who was sent for to attend her on account of a large abscess of the leg consequent upon a blow. This wiseacre, totally ignorant of any right *principle* of treatment, opened the abscess, as he should have done ; but, never satisfied with doing a little, proceeded to pass a seton through the whole length of the abscess,

thus stimulating a part already sufficiently inflamed; and crowned his handiwork by blistering the whole leg from above the knee down to the coronet. The consequence was a permanent callus, for which our farrier should have been treated as report says a Sporting Squire once served one of the same genus whom he accidentally caught in the act of burning one of his horse's feet so as to make it fit a shoe he had no mind to alter. By the help of his two whippers-in, the red-hot shoe was vigorously applied to Vulcan's seat of honour in such a way as thereafter to render his identity unquestionable.

Before I conclude what I have to say respecting the treatment of a strain of the back sinew—and which case I have introduced, by-the-bye, as an illustration of the mode of treating all injuries of a similar nature, let them occur in what part they may—I must remark that the *position* of the affected part is a matter strictly to be attended to. Rest being a necessary agent in subduing inflammation, the muscles—the organs of motion—of the injured part should be placed, as much as possible, in a state of repose; and for this purpose, where the accident, as in the case in point, has occurred to the back of the leg, a high-heeled shoe should be gently tacked on to the foot, which will effectually prevent the back sinews

from being put on the stretch so long as it is worn.

As I do not purpose to go much at length into the treatment of those ailments to which horses are subject, I might here very well conclude what I have to remark with respect to the remedies requisite for the cure of the accident which I have considered above; but, for the purpose of giving you an insight into the operation of applications which may be advisable in a further stage of strain of the back sinew, I will say a few words on the nature of those agents which are generally included under the head of *stimulants*.

Of local stimulants the principal are liniments, blisters, setons, and the actual cautery or firing; and of these the first is the mildest, and the last the most active in its operation.

So long as inflammation is present in any part not deeply seated, any stimulant application is highly improper; for as the nature of these remedies is, as their name implies, to increase the vital action of the part to which they are applied, it must be manifest that by employing them you are augmenting that inflammatory action which you should seek to allay. Whenever, therefore, you find heat, pain, and the other symptoms of active inflammation which I have already enumerated, the employment of stimulating liniments is

extremely injudicious, not only on account of their own immediate action, but likewise because in their application it is necessary to use considerable friction, which of itself would have an injurious tendency. It is only, therefore, after all signs of inflammation have disappeared, and the injured part remains puffed (especially after work) and weak, that remedies of a stimulating character are to be resorted to.

But the case is materially altered when the injury is deep-seated; because you then, by the application of stimulants, excite the action of blood-vessels *in the neighbourhood* of the inflamed part, and thus succeed in relieving it by the attraction of a portion of the blood to the skin. For this purpose blisters are preferable to liniments, both on account of their greater activity in general (although blisters may be made in a liquid form, and thus assume the shape of liniments), and because their application does not require so much friction.

I have known several instances of horses being kept lame by the too early employment of blisters, or by their being improperly placed. Since the object of their use during active inflammation is to withdraw blood from the part inflamed, it is manifest that they should never be placed directly over the seat of injury when inflammation exists

near the skin. Where blisters are used on the extremities, with a view to lessen inflammation, they should also be applied *above* the inflamed part, as the medicaments of which they are composed, if taken up by the absorbent vessels, as occasionally may happen, will otherwise rather excite than diminish the action of the inflamed part.

Thus you will readily perceive that a good deal of discrimination is requisite to determine the propriety of employing stimulants, and also to judge of the time when they may be used with advantage, and the spot on which they should be placed. In active internal inflammation, when it is deemed requisite to blister at once, bleeding should always be resorted to in the first instance, otherwise the local irritation caused by the blister will produce general excitement.

Nineteen out of every twenty farriers have no other mode of treating every disease but by bleeding, physicking, and blistering—three very potent remedies, it must be admitted, when judiciously employed, but whose very activity, when misdirected, is a frequent source of irreparable mischief.

Setons, or rowels, are employed for the relief of some internal inflammations, and act by determining the blood from the affected part, thus

giving its blood-vessels time to recover their activity.

Of firing—since it is an operation which should always be performed by a skilful Veterinary Surgeon, and moreover by his advice—I shall say no more than that it should never be resorted to until less strenuous measures have failed, or in such cases as those in which experience has shewn those measures to be without efficacy.

Having now, I hope, given you some insight into the operation of depleting and exciting remedies, I shall proceed to detail the symptoms of some complaints which you will occasionally meet with, and which may require energetic and immediate treatment. In doing this it is not my intention to lay down any general rules for the treatment of active disease throughout all its stages; as such knowledge as I may possess of the different modes of subduing disease in the horse only leads me, as it should every person who has never practised veterinary surgery, to doubt my own capabilities of conducting the treatment of any grave malady until a cure is effected. Nevertheless, as medical assistance is not always at hand, and some complaints attack a horse suddenly, it is fit that every proprietor of horses should render himself master of the necessary steps to be pursued on the occurrence of any

disease of which he may understand the symptoms.

INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS frequently comes on suddenly, and, unless active treatment be immediately adopted; in many instances will prove fatal if allowed to remain uncombated even for a single day and night. If the advice I have given respecting thorough ventilation and perfect cleanliness in the stable be scrupulously followed, this is a disease which should occur but rarely to your stud; but, be your precautions what they may, it will occasionally supervene in horses either constitutionally predisposed to it, or who have been ridden or driven beyond their strength.

The principal symptoms of this disease are a full but not a jerking pulse, a bright red appearance of the lining membrane of the nostril, a rigid and extended position of the fore-legs, and panting respiration. The poor animal likewise will frequently direct your attention to the seat of disease by looking round at his flanks with a piteous expression of countenance that betrays the intensity of his sufferings.

Now let us pause for a moment to consider why this disease should produce such a train of symptoms as I have enumerated.

The pulse is full, but not jerking, because the

lungs, being distended with blood, present an impediment to the power of the heart, and consequently prevent a free circulation of this fluid.

The lining membrane of the nostrils is of a bright red hue, from its partaking probably of the irritation of the air-passages generally, and consequently containing a larger quantity of blood than usual.

The fore-legs are extended and rigid, as by this position the play of the muscles of the chest and shoulders is impeded, and the horse thereby better enabled to keep the thorax at rest, and to breathe by the descent of the diaphragm or midriff (whose action increases the capacity of the chest) and by the abdominal muscles.

The panting respiration is induced by the pain which a deep inspiration would cause by distending the lungs.

When inflammation of the lungs has once set in, it is usually so intense that the blood deserts the extremities, from feebleness of the heart's action, and from the quantity of this fluid which is determined to the seat of disease; and hence the legs, ears, and nose are usually stone cold. The breath is likewise usually cold, which is accounted for by heat possibly being generated by the contact of atmospheric air with the blood in

its passage through the lungs, and which contact is now materially diminished by the small quantity of air inhaled.

When a horse attacked by inflammation of the lungs has once assumed the posture I have mentioned, he usually maintains it most perseveringly, seldom lying down until exhausted nature can no longer support him in the upright position.

These symptoms having indicated to you the nature of the complaint, it is clear to you that the gorged state of the lungs must be relieved by the abstraction of blood. Nor is this all; for acute inflammatory action being once established, it is far from sufficient to reduce the pulse to its normal state. Were you to stop there, the tendency to inflammation still existing, and the vital power being strong, you would find every bad symptom re-appearing. If you place your finger on the artery of the jaw, so soon as a sufficient quantity of blood has been abstracted to remove the congested state of the lungs, you will find the pulse more free and active, and having reduced the number of its pulsations to forty in the minute—the healthy standard—you may think you have done enough; but, on the contrary, you must enfeeble your patient to prevent re-action, and you must produce a debility proportionate to the excitement lurking in the system. Keep your

finger then on the pulse, and when it begins to flutter and fail, and your horse staggers and reels, then, and not till then, close the orifice in the vein—which orifice, by-the-bye, should always be large, that a greater impression may be made on the system by the sudden abstraction of blood.

The pulse being reduced, you must prevent the re-action of the heart by giving nauseating and depressing medicines. For this purpose, give a ball composed of the following ingredients:—

Calomel Half a drachm.

Tartar Emetic Two scruples.

Powdered Digitalis.... One scruple.

Liquorice Powder Three drachms.

Honey enough to make a ball.

If your Veterinary Surgeon do not make his appearance within six hours, you may repeat this medicine. In the meantime gently rub your horse's ears and legs until the circulation be restored in them; swathe the latter in warm flannel bandages, loosely applied, quite up to the shoulders and stifles; put a sufficient quantity of clothes on him to keep his body perfectly warm, and let as much fresh air as possible be freely admitted into your stable. No food of any description is to be given in the first instance; but, on the contrary, if the symptoms do not abate before the administration of the second ball, the bleeding

must be repeated until faintness be induced. A pailful of cold water, in which an ounce of nitre is dissolved, should be left within reach of the horse.

Unlike the treatment of external inflammation, you cannot, in such a case as I have described, give purgative medicines without incurring the almost certain risk of inducing a fatal inflammation of the bowels, owing to the sympathy existing between them and the lungs.

The metastasis, or change of seat, of inflammatory disease in the horse is very remarkable, and it occasionally happens that internal inflammation of some part of the body will be transferred to the feet or legs, causing the latter to swell prodigiously in a very short space of time.

ACUTE INFLAMMATION OF THE FEET is a very serious disease, and, if it do not terminate by rendering a horse totally unserviceable, at any rate seldom fails to curtail his power of speed and the freedom of his action.

The symptoms are, great restlessness and constant shifting from one foot to the other, a full and bounding pulse, extreme heat and tenderness of the feet, and an early desire to lie down, which having once done, the horse is almost incapable of rising, and frequently puts his nose to the affected part, thus indicating its seat.

In this case you must send for a smith, and make him pare away the horn from the toe until he opens the vein which is there situated, and take from three to four quarts of blood, according to the size and strength of your horse, from each foot. Should no smith be at hand, and you are incapable of performing the operation yourself, it will be better to bleed from the vein running up the inside of the leg than to delay to take blood somewhere. In this case you must make pressure on the vein above the opening, whereas in bleeding from the neck the pressure is made below it, usually with the edge of the pail or can into which the blood flows.

Have your horse back-raked, and give him the same medicines as for inflammation of the lungs until your Veterinary Surgeon arrives.

In addition to this treatment let the shoes be removed, and the sole and crust of the hoof be gently pared and rasped, to diminish as much as possible its pressure on the internal parts of the foot, and then envelop the leg and foot in cloths soaked in the coldest water in which nitre to the extent of one ounce to every quart has been just dissolved.

I believe most Veterinary Surgeons employ warm applications in this complaint; but, although they may be right, I doubt much if the

hoof is thereby much softened and rendered capable of extension as asserted; and without this effect, as warmth will certainly cause a greater flow of blood to the hoof than usual, it must be detrimental.

The last disorder which I shall mention is SPASM of the muscular coat of the bowels, or as it has been termed, FLATULENT COLIC. This complaint is sudden in its attack, and is frequently produced by large draughts of cold water taken when the body is heated, and by the administration of too great a quantity of aloetic medicines, especially if badly pulverized, and given when a horse is not previously prepared by bran mashes, or is allowed corn and beans before the operation of this purgative has ceased. This complaint should perhaps more properly be called SPASMODIC COLIC; that of FLATULENT COLIC, which is really unnecessary, being reserved to designate those cases which are induced by the fermentation of new oats, hay, or green meat in the stomach, by which process a large quantity of gas is generated, which ultimately gives rise to spasm.

A horse suffering from *gripes* or spasmodic colic paws the ground violently; smells his flanks; kicks them with the hind legs; extends himself as far as he can; suddenly gathers himself toge-

ther; shifts about; lies down, and rolls upon his back; then immediately rises, shakes himself, and goes through the same manœuvres again, accompanying them with groaning so long as the spasm lasts.

The suddenness of the attack, the temperature of the extremities being natural, and the pulse not increased in quickness soon after the spasm has ceased, together with the animal appearing in good health in the intervals of the complaint, will distinguish spasmodic colic from inflammation of the bowels, which may nevertheless supervene should the spasms be of long continuance and frequently repeated. For this reason I would recommend you to begin your treatment of colic, when severe, by the abstraction of three or four quarts of blood, and follow it up by back-raking and the injection of a large quantity of warm gruel into the bowels, to which you may add four ounces of oil of turpentine. Prior, however, to administering this injection, give by the mouth a pint of old ale warmed, with half a teaspoonful of powdered ginger and six drachms or an ounce of laudanum, and where the complaint arises from fermented food, you may add half an ounce of carbonate of soda. Ten minutes after this dose has been swallowed give the glyster, during the operation of which your horse may be moved

about gently, or his belly may be rubbed with warm flannels.

When all bad symptoms have disappeared, mashies should be substituted for corn, and a mild dose of physic given to remove any feculent matter from the bowels.

The variety of diseases to which the horse in his state of bondage is liable precludes the possibility of even noticing them in the limits of this Treatise. Suffice it therefore to say, that in cases where you have decided symptoms of external or internal inflammation, you will never go wrong in taking blood (except where manifest debility accompanies the attack, as in some cases of Influenza), although you may occasionally err in the exhibition of purgative medicines.

Ere I conclude, let me say a few words respecting the treatment of **BROKEN KNEES**, an accident which may occur at almost any moment, and which requires immediate attention. The first thing to be done is carefully to wash away with a soft sponge and warm water every particle of sand or gravel which may have insinuated itself into the wound, of which you will then be better enabled to ascertain the depth. It occasionally will happen in a very severe fall that the capsule of the joint is lacerated, and in this case an effusion of a limpid and somewhat glutinous liquid,

called *synovia* or *joint-oil*, will take place. This may not be very perceptible at first, particularly if the opening into the joint be small; but so soon as your attention is directed to it, you should lose no time in sending for the best Veterinary Surgeon within reach, as you will scarcely be able to manage the case by yourself. Where the laceration of the capsule is extensive, the probability is that the subsequent inflammation will ultimately produce abscess, ulceration of the cartilages of the joint, and, if the horse live long enough, destruction of the bones which compose it. But should the opening into the joint be small, the object you must keep in view is to preserve it accurately closed until Nature shall have had sufficient time to effect its union by granulations. For this purpose a heated iron, of proper dimensions, is usually employed, and the edges of the opening being cauterized, the eschar thus formed and the subsequent swelling contribute to close the opening for some days.

When the capsule of the joint is uninjured, and the flap of skin which covered the wounded part still remains, some Veterinary Surgeons have recommended that it be cut off, and the wound dressed with friars' balsam, which is a strong stimulant. This treatment can scarcely, in my opinion, be vindicated by sound judgment; and

had I twenty horses in this state, I would in each case lay the flap down as neatly as possible, and retain it in its proper position by a single point of suture at its least supported part, where the cut portion was large and but loosely attached, or by strips of adhesive plaster, together with a compress and bandage. These latter I would keep constantly wetted with goulard lotion.

Where the skin is entirely removed, the best application, after fomentations with hot water, is a soft and warm linseed-meal poultice, which should be removed every four hours until the inflammation subsides. You may also in every case give a gentle dose of physic, and no other food for the first few days than bran-mashes and hay.

When the inflammation has been subdued, and granulations appear, apply strips of adhesive plaster, neatly one over the other so as to make some pressure on the wound, and bandage the leg very carefully with a linen bandage from above the knee to the coronet. Several stimulating applications may be requisite during different stages of the cure, among which friars' balsam, and nitrate of silver lotions, varying in strength according to the state of the parts, are perhaps as good as any.

Whether the wound have penetrated to the

joint or not, and whether the skin be hanging to the wound or cut off, I would recommend you in every instance of broken knees to apply a splint of wood, of the whole length of the leg, to the back of the limb, and to confine it by a bandage. This is a precaution unattended to by Veterinary Surgeons; but, inasmuch as it prevents the injured part from being bent or moved, should never be omitted; for the quieter the state of the wounded limb, the less will be the consequent inflammation and the speedier the cure. Where the injury is great, I should recommend the splint to be kept on for at least six-and-thirty hours without removal.

I have spoken of cold lotions and warm poultices as applicable to different degrees of broken knees. Poultices rather tend to hasten the process of suppuration, without a slight quantity of which granulations will not be formed. They are therefore to be used where there is no flap of skin left. But if you wish to effect immediate union of the cut parts, which should always be attempted when practicable, suppuration is not to be promoted, and therefore cold lotions are preferable.

I once had a horse that had a broken knee, which accident occurred before he came into my possession, consequently how it was treated I

know not. However he met with a second mischance while being carelessly ridden by an ostler, and broke his knee again in the same place ; and by attending to the rules I have given for the treatment of this accident, what was in the first instance an unsightly scar, with some swelling, was greatly improved in appearance, and the enlargement removed.

Since that time I have twice recommended the same plan to be followed, and each time have witnessed its complete success. However, it requires great care and nicety so to apply strips of plaster and bandages as to prevent the swelling so often consequent on a bad broken knee, and which blisters and stimulants nine times out of ten fail to reduce.

Farriers will tell you that the common adhesive plaster will not do for a horse, and would fain induce you to use slips of leather covered with pitch ; but where your plaster perfectly encircles the wounded part, as the knee-joint, and is cut sufficiently long, one end overlaps the other, and consequently it adheres to itself. Where this is not the case the hair will prevent it from sticking.

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE sometimes makes its appearance suddenly, either from irritating substances, as hay, seeds, &c., making their way into it, or from blows with a brush while cleaning

the head, or a rap with a stick from a brutal groom, who is in the habit of striking a horse over the head while riding him, and perhaps accidentally hits the eye by the sudden shifting of the horse's head when he expects a blow there. I have seen a very severe injury of the eye, where it presented the appearance of a mass of blood, from this very cause.

In this case you must bleed from the vein running just below the eye, and which is usually very easily distinguished, and give physic and bran-mashes. Cold lotions of goulard water are to be constantly applied to the eye, and the stable to be darkened while the inflammation is excessive. When this is reduced, and the membrane of the eye still remains clouded, you may inject night and morning with a syringe a weak solution of nitrate of silver, beginning with four grains to an ounce of distilled water, and gradually increasing its strength as the eye appears to improve under its application. A little speck will frequently remain on the membrane which cannot be removed. Indeed it is occasioned by the abrasion at the moment of injury of this most delicate part.

GREASY HEELS you will have few opportunities of treating if you follow the advice I have given under the head of Stable Management. They are

most frequently occasioned by washing the legs with cold water while they are heated from exercise, and suffering them afterwards to dry; the consequent reaction after the application of cold being excessive, and running into inflammation. Nature then seeks to relieve the gorged vessels by a discharge of ichorous matter from the inflamed part. Bringing a horse into a hot stable also in the winter, when his legs are chilled with standing some time perhaps in the snow, will produce a similar effect. These ills are easily to be avoided with a little careful supervision, and by accustoming your groom to pay particular attention to rubbing the heels dry at all times, and keeping them perfectly clean.

When the disease has appeared, all causes inducing it must be avoided; and of these I may mention draughts of air blowing upon a horse from behind; and if the pain and heat of the part be great, warm and soft poultices must be applied in the first instance.

As soon as stimulating remedies are applicable, you can use nothing better or cleaner than a solution of nitrate of silver in distilled water, beginning with eight or ten grains to the ounce. Sometimes, however, the diseased parts will require a change of stimulants, and you may then apply a solution of blue-stone in a strong decoction of

oak bark. A stick of nitrate of silver or lunar caustic may be lightly passed over the cracked part occasionally with great advantage. But there is one circumstance which, although in every case neglected, you must not overlook. The motion of the diseased part must, as much as possible, be controlled. Every time the horse bends the fetlock-joint he disturbs the process of nature in effecting a cure; and as it is necessary to prevent the crack in the heel from being disturbed, you will find that any moderately soft substance, as bees' wax or putty, placed over and close to the diseased part, will, by taking its form and accurately making pressure upon each portion of it, materially conduce to the cure. It must be applied directly after the lotions I have recommended, and must not only be kept on by a neatly applied bandage, but the hollow in the back part of the fetlock-joint must also be previously filled up by a pad of tow, or some other soft substance, in order that the joint may thereby be rendered less capable of motion.

The heels being the farthest removed from the heart, the circulation of the blood in them is less active and vigorous than elsewhere, and consequently their restoration to a healthy state is achieved with more than usual difficulty. Some horses that have cracked heels are in too high

condition, while others in a debilitated state are equally or perhaps more prone to the same disease. These different states of body of course require opposite constitutional treatment; the first demanding low diet with purgatives and diuretics; the second, generous food with tonics.

Of all the preventives of grease with which I am acquainted there is none—setting aside the avoidance of those causes which I have already mentioned as conducing to the disease—so effective in its operation as *bandaging* the legs regularly with flannel rollers. I am an advocate for their employment at most times in the stable, as in my opinion they materially tend to fine the legs when properly applied, and also, when not put on too tightly, evidently keep up the circulation in the extremities, a point of much consequence.

Those who are not shewn the proper method of applying a bandage generally do more harm than good with them. I am sure I do not in the least exaggerate when I say that I never yet knew a single groom who could put on a bandage as it should be. They fail about the pasterns and fetlocks, and leave the bandage there loose and bagging, so that, when pressure is requisite, the circulation between the pastern-joint and the foot is impeded, and the latter will be found cold, and the part

between the coronet and fetlock perhaps somewhat swollen.

Bandages, to be neatly applied, should not be so wide as grooms generally make them. You will hardly be able to put them on properly if of more than four inches in width. Begin by applying your roller just under the knee, pass it round in rather a slanting direction, keeping your finger on the extremity until you find it has taken firm hold of the limb ; then let each turn of the bandage cover one half of that above it, taking care so to direct it that its under edge do not bag, but lie closely on the leg. When you come to the hollow behind the pastern, the bandage must be half folded on itself, so that what was its upper border shall be undermost, and this must be repeated whenever it cannot be otherwise made to lie smoothly and closely to the leg.

By bandaging from above downwards you in a great measure avoid leaving any marks of the roller on the hair.

So much then for the treatment of some of those accidents and diseases which will occasionally demand your attention. We have now several treatises of great merit on the diseases of the horse, in which every circumstance connected with their symptoms and treatment is considered ; and as it has only been my intention to notice

such cases as will every now and then occur in every man's stable, and which require immediate attention, I would recommend my readers to consult the best veterinary authorities, and to make themselves, as far as possible, masters of the *principles* on which the treatment of disease should be founded, in order that they may not be imposed upon by the ignorance of a country Vulcan—that torturer of the equine race—nor the officiousness of a would-be-learned groom, who deems nothing easier than the cure of all diseases of the horse, and takes the old saying of “as strong as a horse” as his authority for essaying upon his unfortunate carcase every kind of dose of every sort of medicine which it pleases his fancy to imagine he must require.

Has your horse a bad coat or a trifling cough? down goes, night and morning, an *ad libitum* dose of sulphur and antimony, together with a drench, composed of Heaven knows what, but which you are told is *Macmorabolus* (probably *Lac Mirabile*—some old nostrum), and which Mr. So-and-so, the farrier, vows to be a never-failing specific for a cough in all animals. Does he strain himself or get a blow on any part? the stable is forthwith redolent of turpentine and hartshorn, and greasy bottles containing liniments of every smell and virtue adorn the shelves of your saddle-room, or

are thrust away into holes and corners as though the very light would rob them of some of their precious qualities.

It is a difficult thing to treat the simplest form of disease on really scientific principles, as experience is constantly demonstrating the errors of our previous practice ; but it is by no means an arduous task to acquire that degree of knowledge which will enable us to strip ignorance of its cloak, and confound the empiric who is incapable of assigning a good reason for any portion of his plan of treatment.

THE END.

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